

COMMENT OF
THE DAY

Peking Must
Decide

SIR Anthony Eden's House of Commons statement and Mr. Foster Dulles' broadcast to the nation suggest that these two statesmen are still apart in their assessment of the fundamental requirements for a solution of the Formosa Straits problem. Mr. Dulles believes that where necessary, words should be backed by a determined show of force; otherwise, he argues, the probability is that the Chinese Communists will regard the United States and her allies as a "paper tiger." Sir Anthony Eden still insists that displays of force by either or both sides can make no contribution to a peaceful settlement; on the contrary it will rule out any possibility of successfully preparing the ground for negotiations.

The British Foreign Secretary also underlined another policy disagreement between Britain and the United States. He advocates withdrawal of the Chinese Nationalist forces from the coast islands; Mr. Dulles refuses to consider any such proposal. But attitudes are logical enough when they are considered in relation to overall policies, and neither must be condemned out of hand.

THE main preoccupation of Britain and the United States is the future of Formosa, dovetailed to which is the security and peace of the Far East. The British viewpoint is that the problem of Formosa should be settled by peaceful negotiation, and that an essential condition for those negotiations is a cessation of hostilities in the Straits of Formosa. Overlooked in some quarters is the insistence that the Chinese Communists should make their full contribution to a ceasefire. Sir Anthony Eden is not proposing a full retreat by the forces of the free world, leaving the Communists unfettered opportunity to grab new territory and to expand their grip in the West Pacific and Southeast Asia.

Britain's active participation in SEATO belies the suggestion that she is engaged in a policy of appeasement with Communist China, and it is here where Britain resolutely supports Mr. Dulles' warning to Peking that further open armed aggression by the Chinese Communists would most likely mean general war in Asia.

THE defensive alliance between the United States, Britain and their friends is powerful and purposeful. This the Peking regime cannot afford to discount. Wherefore if the Chinese Communists feel they have legitimate claims to be satisfied, the way open for them is to acknowledge the good sense of properly conducted negotiations, and to repudiate a policy of force.

The biggest mistake Peking could make would be to assume that the differences of opinion between the United States and Britain are irreconcilable. Sir Anthony Eden was making no idle statement when he told the House of Commons that friendship and consultation between the two countries was stronger than ever. In the final analysis it will rest with Peking to decide whether to take advantage of the opportunities for peaceful negotiations which are being offered by Sir Anthony Eden and Mr. Nehru, or to challenge the Western and Asian democracies to prove they are no "paper tiger." This is how the Chinese Communists should read the apparently paradoxical speeches of Mr. Foster Dulles and Sir Anthony Eden.

DULLES WARNS PEKING GOVT

Further Armed Aggression May Mean A General War UNITED STATES FORCES A DETERRENT

Washington, Mar. 8.

The United States Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles, said today that open armed aggression by the Chinese Communists again would probably mean "general war in Asia."

Mr. Dulles broadcast a nation-wide report on his recent tour of the Far East including attendance at the Bangkok Southeast Asian defence conference.

He recalled that he had pointed out at Bangkok that "for military purposes the Chinese Communist front should be regarded as an entirety because if the Chinese Communists engaged in open armed aggression this would probably mean that they have decided on general war in Asia. They would then have to take into account the mutual defence treaties of the United States with the Republic of Korea and the Republic of China and the forces maintained under them. Thus general war would confront the Chinese Communists with tasks at the south, centre and north, tasks which would strain their inadequate means of transportation."

He added: "The allied nations possess together plenty of power in the area. The United States in particular has sea and air forces now equipped with new and powerful weapons of precision which can utterly destroy military targets without endangering unrelated civilian centres."

Mr. Dulles also clarified United States policy in the Formosa crisis. He said that the authority recently granted by Congress to President Eisenhower for the use of United States armed forces in the Formosa area "permits a defence which will be flexible and not necessarily confined to a static defence of Formosa and the Pescadores themselves."

He said that it would be for the President to decide how to implement this flexible defence "in the light of his judgment as to the overall value of certain coastal positions to the defence of Formosa and the cost of holding these positions."

He said that the United States should not feel ashamed of the great self-restraint it was shown.

He added: "But we must always remember that the free nations of the Western Pacific and Southeast Asia will quickly lose their freedom if they think that our love of peace means peace at any price. We must, if occasion offers, make it clear that we are prepared to stand firm and if necessary to meet hostile force with the greater force that we possess."

He said that he had come back from Asia greatly impressed by the spirit and purpose of the

Mr. Dulles did not refer by name to any specific offshore coastal position such as the Chinese Nationalist held islands of Quemoy and Matsu.

He said he hoped that the present military activities of the Chinese Communists in the area were not in fact "the first stage of an attack against Formosa and the Pescadores."

He expressed the hope that a ceasefire might be obtainable and said that friendly nations "on their own responsibility are seeking to find substance for these hopes."

He added: "So far these efforts have not been rewarded by any success. The Chinese Communists seem to be deter-

mined to try to conquer Formosa.

Mr. Dulles described how Chinese Communist propaganda sought to use past United States policies and Far Eastern developments, such as the United States' evacuation of the Tachen Islands by the Nationalist Chinese, as proof that the United States was merely a "paper tiger."

He said the Chinese Communist propaganda suggested "to the small peoples whom they are persistently trying to deceive that the United States will always find reasons to fall back when faced by brutal and uncompromising force and that Communist China is sure to win."

The Chinese Communists seem determined to make such a challenge. At the same time they are persistently trying to belittle our power and to throw doubt on our resolution.

Mr. Dulles said: "For military defence we shall rely largely upon mobile allied power which can strike an aggressor wherever the occasion may demand. That capacity will we believe deter aggression. We shall not need to build up large static forces at all points and the United States contribution will be primarily in terms of sea and air power."

WORDS ALONE INSUFFICIENT

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ECONOMIC, SOCIAL PROBLEM

Mr. Dulles continued that at Bangkok they dealt with the treaty and task of improving economic and social conditions. "This problem divides itself into two parts," he said.

"First is the problem of meeting the cost of more effective treaty enforcement. As I have said, the Council is not trying to build up vast new military establishments. But there is need of modest national forces which are well equipped and loyal, which can support the authority of the Government throughout its territory and fight initial defensive actions if there should be attack from without."

"The problem of economic improvement goes beyond the immediate treaty area. The treaty area is not and never can be a self-contained economic unit. The great bulk of its trade is with outside areas. There is need for programmes to develop broadly the

"Even these limited forces involve an economic burden which some of the countries cannot carry without help. So the strong will help the weak by providing some military equipment and financial support."

"Funds for that have been voted by the Congress for the current fiscal year and the Administration is asking for a renewal of funds for this purpose for the coming fiscal year. Thus there will be special recognition of those countries which assume military obligations with us."

"A second phase of the economic problem is general improvement of economic conditions in the area. This calls for capital developments. Industrialization should be speeded. There should be better roads, more irrigation works and improved port facilities. There is particular need for a larger exchange of goods and services between the countries of South and Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific."

"Japan, with its large capacity for industrial production and its need for food and raw materials, is an important element in this situation."

Mr. Dulles said that he was deeply impressed by Philippine President Magway's grasp of the Communist problem. "He has given the full moral support to the anti-Communist position of the United States in Asia," Mr. Dulles said.

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Silence On Eden's Statement

Washington, Mar. 8. The State Department today declined to confirm Sir Anthony Eden's statement that the United States had been responsible for persuading General Chiang Kai-shek to withdraw from the Tachen and Nanchi Islands.

Questioned about the British Foreign Secretary's speech in the House of Commons today, the State Department spokesman, Mr. Henry Stimson said: "I can make no comment at all."

He would not say whether Sir Anthony Eden and Mr. John Foster Dulles, had agreed on the possibility of a Nationalist withdrawal from the Chinese offshore islands as a first move towards admitting the Communist Chinese regime to the United Nations.

Mr. Stimson also stepped further questions about possible disagreement between Britain and the United States over Formosa policy by saying that he had to leave comment on such matters to the Secretary of State.—Reuter.

STRIKING SEAMEN RETURNING

London, Mar. 8. A spokesman of the Furness Withy Line said here today that so far 71 of some 300 striking British seamen, stranded in New York, had signed on again and were being flown to Bermuda to rejoin their ship.

He understood that the rest were "more or less dribbling back."

The Secretary of the men's union, Mr. Tom Yates, expected the rest of the striking crew, who walked off the 22,500-ton cruise liner Queen of Bermuda before she sailed from New York to be signed on during today.

"We have asked the company to renege those men who are in no way responsible for the dispute," he said. "This did not include three writers, members of an unofficial committee seeking higher bonuses and shore leave expenses for the crew whose dismissal caused the strike. They were properly discharged last week," Mr. Yates added.—Reuter.

Faure Wins A Budget Vote

Paris, Mar. 8. The Government of M. Edgar Faure, Radical Premier, tonight won by 284 votes against 242 a vote in favour of the civil service budget which included an additional 9,500 million francs (about 40 million pounds sterling) for pay increases.

M. Faure had told the Assembly he wanted to make the vote one of support for his government. But he stressed he did not wish to ask for an official vote of confidence. This would have meant under the French constitution a delay of 24 hours before the vote was taken.—Reuter.

BUS DISASTER

Seoul, Mar. 9. South Korean police announced here today that 21 passengers were burned to death and 20 others seriously injured when a speeding bus overturned and its petrol tank exploded 80 miles east of Seoul yesterday.—Reuter.

Air Liner Crashes

New York, Mar. 8. New York radio stations tonight quoted reports from Mexico City that 23 people were feared to have been killed when a twin-engine airliner crashed on the west coast of Mexico. The plane, which was reported to belong to Compania Mexicana, a subsidiary of Pan American Airways.—Reuter.

BEVAN CENSURE THREAT BRINGS PROTESTS

London, Mar. 8.

Telegrams began to come in tonight from local Labour Party sections protesting against the censure with which Labour's left wing leader Mr. Aneurin Bevan is threatened by the Labour's "Shadow Cabinet".

The "Shadow Cabinet" reportedly has decided to propose the expulsion of Mr. Bevan from the Labour Party's Parliamentary group by nine votes to four.

The four members voting against the proposal were understood to be former Colonial Secretary James Griffiths, former Under-Secretary of State James Callaghan, former President of the Board of Trade Harold Wilson and former Minister of Labour Arthur Robens.

Mr. Clement Attlee did not vote.

An open rift between the Labour leadership and the Party's Left Wing chief Mr. Bevan threatened tonight to present the Conservatives with an easy election victory later this year.

Parliamentary Labour circles hoped a last-minute compromise would prevent the implementation of a leadership recommendation to exclude Mr. Bevan from the Party's Parliamentary group.

The recommendation was reported to have been made by Labour's "Shadow Cabinet" headed by Mr. Attlee as a disciplinary measure against a Bevanite "revolt" over the defence issue last week.

If the full Parliamentary Labour group endorses the recommendation at a meeting next week it will create the biggest crisis in the Labour Party's history since the defection of Ramsay MacDonald to form a "National government" in coalition with the Conservatives and Liberals in 1931.

JUNE ELECTIONS?

It was believed here that Sir Winston Churchill might call for new elections either in June or October.

An irreparable break between Mr. Bevan and the Labour leadership would probably hand the election to the Conservatives on a silver platter.

Today's decision, taken behind closed doors was believed to have been divulged by Mr. Harold Wilson, a former President of the Board of Trade, and the only Bevanite in the "Shadow Cabinet."

Mr. Bevan has the support of only about one-third of the 285 MPs who will take the final vote next week. But other members of the Parliamentary group will be reluctant to vote for his exclusion since the constituency (local) Labour parties, in contrast to the majority of the trade unions, are mostly pro-Bevan.

On the other hand, a rejection of the "Shadow Cabinet" recommendation would be tantamount to a repudiation of Party Leader Mr. Clement Attlee.

There was still hope that party "conciliators" could work out a formula which would both save the party from disastrous schism and save the fall of Mr. Attlee and the other members of the leadership.

One such formula would take the form of a resolution reaffirming the group's confidence in Mr. Attlee and ensuring Mr. Bevan without, however, excluding him from the Parliamentary group.—France-Press.

THREE VIOLENT EARTHQUAKES

Panama, Hawaii, Mar. 8. Three violent earthquakes shook the villages of Kalepuna and Ophir today, and drove the villagers from their homes into the surrounding country-side.

A seismologist who was in the area said the quakes resembled those which preceded the evolution of a new volcano on the eastern tip of this island last week.—France-Press.

Harviman's Plea

New York, Mar. 8. Mr. Averell Harviman, Democratic Governor of New York State, said here tonight the United States must end its "desperately dangerous policy of going it alone" in the Formosa area.

"We must internationalize the defense of Formosa and do this if possible through the United Nations," he said.—Reuter.

Singapore Worried Over H.K. Imports

Singapore, Mar. 9.

Imports of large quantities of cheap Hongkong shoes are beginning to have an adverse effect on local shoe manufacturers, according to traders here.

The traders were expressing their views on the effect of Hongkong shoes in the local market, after reports that cheap Hongkong products were causing short time in the shoe and slipper making industry centred in the Rosedale Valley, Lancashire.

London reports said Hongkong products have been on sale in the northwest of England, including Manchester. Slippers and some types of women's shoes have been selling much cheaper than the Rosedale makers can produce them, the reports added.

Consequently, several firms in Manchester were working short time and nearly 1,000 workers were affected.

Local traders said they would always welcome healthy competition but they feared that the small shoe shops found all over Singapore would be the hardest hit if Hongkong shoes continued to flood the market.—France-Press.

HONGKONG GLOVES

London, Mar. 8.

Gloves imported into the United Kingdom from Hongkong last year totalled 646,000 dozen pairs compared with 246,000 dozen pairs in 1953. Mr. Austin Low, Minister of State in the Board of Trade, said in a written parliamentary reply today.

Of the total for 1954, 500,000 dozen pairs were knitted (including mittens), 145,000 dozen pairs were of fabric and 1,000 dozen pairs of leather.

In 1953, 237,000 dozen pairs were knitted and 8,000 dozen pairs of leather.

Mr. Low was replying to Mr. Fred Blackburn, Labour, who had asked for the figures.—Reuter.

46 BITTEN BY RABID DOG

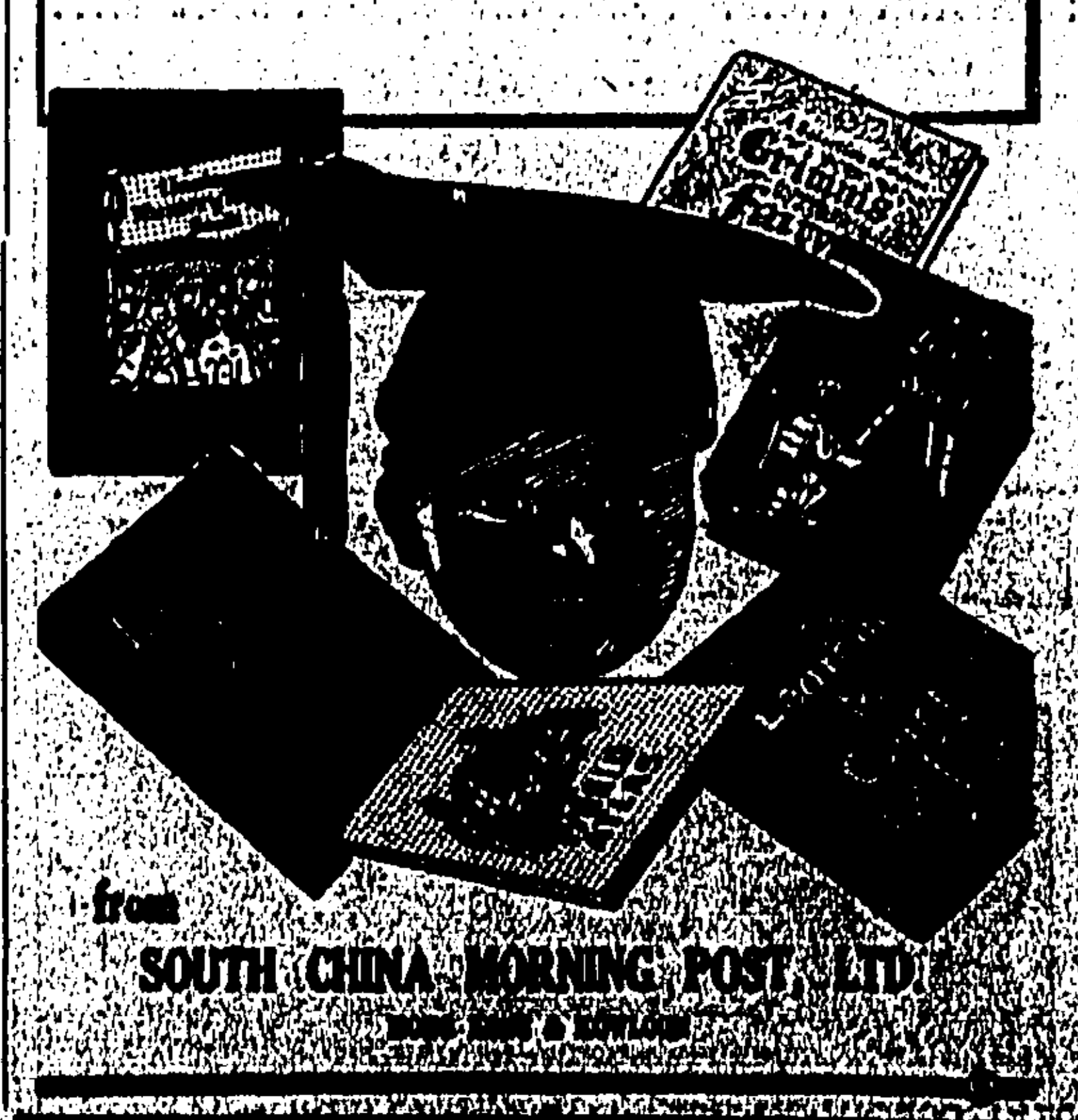
Gary, Indiana, Mar. 8.

Health authorities, in a door-to-door search, today completed the task of finding 46 persons who were bitten or came in contact with a rabid dog.

The victims, most of them children, were told to visit their doctors immediately.

The dog, a two-month-old German shepherd, went berserk last Friday in the vicinity of Horace Man High School. Most of those bitten were children between eight and 16 years old.—United Press.

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SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST LTD.

KING'S PRINCESS

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COMMENCING TO-DAY

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DRUMS ACROSS THE RIVER

AUDIE LISA
MURPHY GAYE
LYLE WALTER
BETTGER BRENNAN

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ASSASSIN FOR HIRE

Starring STONEY EATLES and RONALD HOWARD

GRAND OPENING TO-MORROW
SOMETHING NEW! SOMETHING REALLY DIFFERENT!

OTTO PREMINGER presents

OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN'S

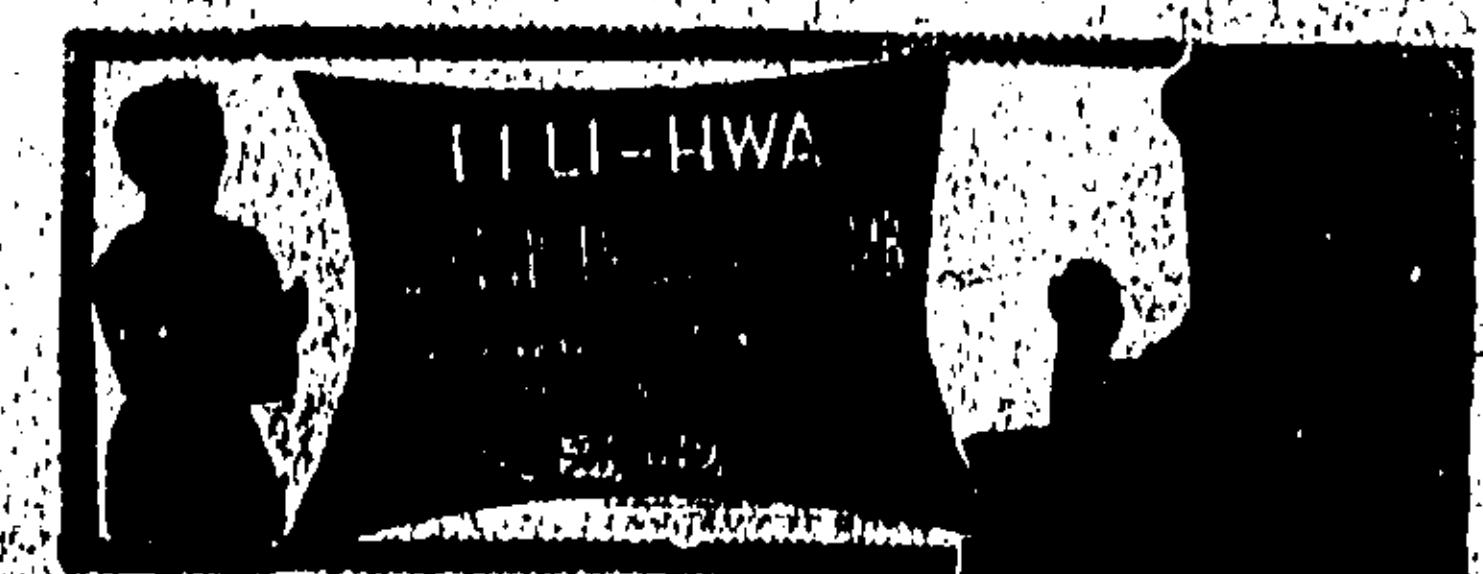
CARMEN JONES

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Starring: HARRY BELAFONTE • DOROTHY DANDRIDGE
PEARL BAILEY • OLGA JAMES • JOE ADAMS
BOOKINGS NOW OPEN!

ORIENTAL

A Modern Chinese Film in Mandarin Dialogue



SHOWING TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

US DOLLAR AUCTIONS



Grim faced Andrei Gromyko, Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR, listens to arguments put forward at the Five-Nation Disarmament Conference at Lancaster House, London. The talks, held in close secrecy, are likely to have far reaching effects in future world peace. Mr Gromyko flew specially from Moscow to lead the Russian Delegation at the talks.—Express Photo.

Nuclear Formations
Test In Germany
By British Army

London, Mar. 8.

British Army experiments with nuclear formations stripped of "administrative clutter" are to be tried out in Germany during the next training season, Mr Antony Head, Minister of War, disclosed in the House of Commons tonight.

Mr Head speaking in a debate on the Army budget of £542,750,000 for the coming year said two formations had already been earmarked to become experimental units to try out the very drastic revision of the organisation to see how it worked.

The greatest need of nuclear and atomic war, he said, was to eliminate the "clutter" behind the army.

ADOPTING US WEAPON

Mr Head also said the Government had decided to adopt one of America's artillery guided missiles, the Mark Two, of the "Corporal," which he believed was "ahead of any other ground to ground missile in the world."

He said the War Office was sending officers and non-commissioned officer instructors for these units over to the United States in April or May.

The units themselves would be formed next year. The Army would then have something which would produce additional firepower. It was intended to introduce it to the British Army in Europe.

The "Corporal" guided missile is fired from a mobile launch and has a range of at least 50 miles. It is driven by a rocket motor, may be guided in flight and travels at a speed of several times that of sound.

Mr Head said he suggested that conventional weapons could be dispensed with and that nuclear bombs should not be used against a conventional attacker as suggested by Mr Aneurin Bevan was the "illogical piece of thinking I have heard for a long time."—Reuter.

JUNTA HEAD
IN RED
UPRISING

Guatemala, Mar. 8.

A Government spokesman revealed last night that Col Efraim M. Morzon, a former Junta head, was expelled because of implications in the Communist-inspired uprising last January against President Carlos Castillo Armas.

Mr Luis Coronado Lira, Secretary of Information, said that Morzon now is in Miami, Florida, conferring with Mr Juan Jose Arevalo, President of Guatemala from 1945 to 1951.

Mr Coronado Lira also said that Morzon was implicated in the attack by military cadets last August against members of Mr Castillo's "Army of Liberation" which sparked the rebellion that overthrew the Red-trained regime of ex-President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman.—United Press.

MAJESTIC

TO-DAY

at 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m.

On Our Giant Wide Screen

America Accused
Of Stimulating
Korean Inflation
NON-ACCEPTANCE
OF HWAN BIDS

Seoul, Mar. 9.

The South Korean Finance Minister, Mr Lee Jung Jai, in an official statement tonight, accused the United States of "stimulating inflation in Korea, making prices unstable and jeopardising gains already made in stabilising the Korean economy" by "arbitrarily" rejecting most of the bids submitted in the United Nations Command dollar auction.

Mr Lee's statement was issued shortly after the Director of FOA, Mr Harold Stassen, told a Press conference here that the United Nations Command would continue to sell aid dollars through regular auctions.

Mr Lee said on February 28 the United Nations Command rejected all but 89 bids out of 606 bids submitted and sold only about a half of the \$2,000,000 offered for sale.

50 MILLION IN BIDS

The Minister said about \$6,000,000 in bids were made on February 28.

He claimed the sale of the \$2,000,000 advertised would have been at an average of 476 hwan to the dollar, only nine hwan to the dollar lower than the average rate shown by the 89 accepted bids.

Mr Lee said: "It appears that the refusal to satisfy the demand is actually a manipulation designed to increase the demand for dollars and decrease the value of the hwan. This definitely stimulates inflation, makes prices unstable and jeopardises the gains already made in stabilising the Korean economy."

"A stable currency is paramount. Auctions which disregard the vast bulk of bidders do not contribute to stability."

Mr Lee's statement was interpreted here as a demand that the United Nations Command sell all the amount offered for sale in coming auctions regardless of the low average rate.

The United Nations Command Economic Co-ordinator, Mr C. Tyler Wood, explained earlier that the auction should be carried out according to the law of "demand and supply" and also pointed out that the sale of dollars at a lower average rate would "cause a sudden drop in commodity prices and fluctuate" the present setup of the Korean economy.—Reuter.

Stolen Hearse
Found

Berne, Mar. 8.

A hearse was found today at Bumpflitz near here some 24 hours after it had been stolen from its place in front of a house while waiting to receive a coffin.

When the employees of a funeral parlour came down the stairs with a body in a coffin on their shoulders, the hearse had vanished and they had to carry their burden back upstairs.

The police were not sure today whether the disappearance was the work of a practical joker or not, and they are continuing their investigation.—France-Press.

Soviet Accepts
Obligations

Moscow, Mar. 8.

The Soviet Union said today that she accepted Czarist Russia's obligation in signing the International Conventions in 1899 and 1907 on the peaceful settlement of differences between states, on the rules and conduct of war, and the rights of neutral powers.

A Soviet note to Holland, which had inquired whether Russia still accepted the Conventions, said they were recognised insofar as they were not contradictory to the UN Charter.—Reuter.

Capitol

TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.
FIRST TIME ON PANORAMIC SCREEN

The Blue Lagoon

— NEXT CHANGE —



QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

SHOWING TO-DAY



COMING SOON Tyrone POWER • Maureen O'HARA
"THE LONG GRAY LINE"

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AIR-CONDITIONED, OZONIZED AND WARM

DAILY AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

FINAL TO-DAY

International Winner of
DAVID O. SELZNICK'S
GOLDEN LAUREL AWARD

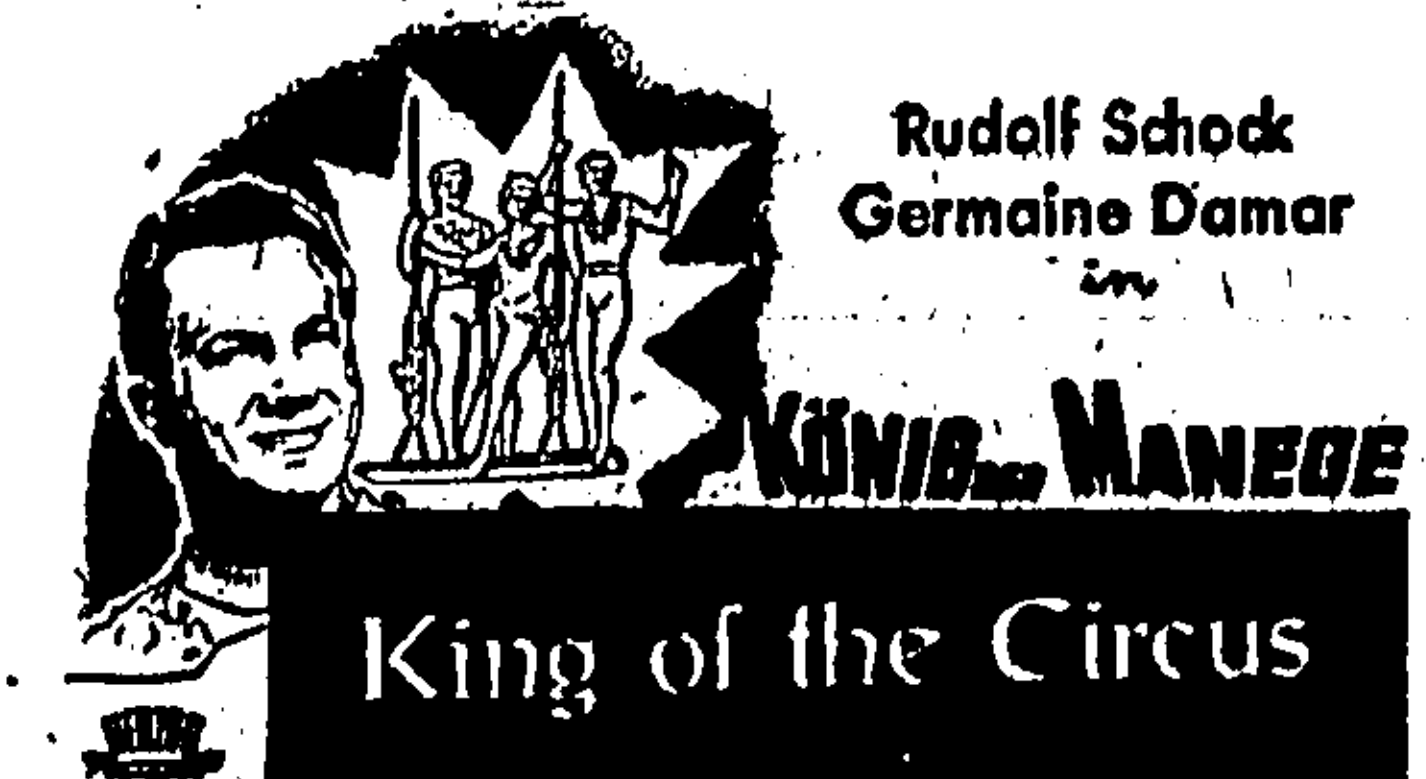


DONNE Senha NOME

"WOMEN WITHOUT NAMES"

with
English Subtitles
Partially in English

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King of the Circus

WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
En Em. Marichio - film de ERMA - Production in Herzog-Filmverleih

EMPIRE

LAST 2 DAYS
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30
& 9.30 P.M.

LI LI-HWA in

"THE LITTLE GIRL
NAMED CABBAGE"

A Chinese Picture

RITZ SHOWING TO-DAY

Randolph SCOTT • Ruth ROMAN

in "COLT .45"

Warner Bros.' Picture — Color by Technicolor

Not worth a light



OPPOSITION TO SAAR TREATY



GROUP CAPT TOWNSEND

Papers 'War' Over Princess

London, Mar. 8. The two mass circulation newspapers, the Daily Mirror and the Daily Sketch, are at war over current reports of Princess Margaret's rumoured romance with Group Captain Peter Townsend, though most of the British press has so far ignored them.

The Mirror and companion weekend newspaper, the Sunday Pictorial, splashed the reports last Sunday, saying an announcement was expected soon about Princess Margaret's "decision."

The Mirror yesterday and today featured front-page stories from a reporter in Brussels, where Group Captain Townsend is Air Attache at the British Embassy, who spoke to Group Captain Townsend while he was out for early morning rides in a park.

PRECIPITATE ACTION

One result of the "screaming phony hullabaloo" could be to force Princess Margaret to some "precipitate action" in advance of her birthday on August 21, the Sketch declared.

Two Paris evening newspapers today gave considerable prominence to the rumoured Royal romances.

France Soir, with a story from its own correspondent in Brussels, devoted three-quarters of a column of its front page and half of an inside page to the reports.

Paris Press gave up its entire back page to an illustrated feature on Princess Margaret and Group Captain Townsend.—China Mail Special.

West German Lower House Full Debate

Bonn, Mar. 8.

The West German Lower House of Parliament is to have a full dress debate on an opposition move to halt ratification of the Saar pact with France.

The debate will start one hour before the Upper House is due to debate the treaty on March 18.

The Social Democrats want the Government to resume negotiations with France immediately because of the "new difficulties of interpretation" which have arisen.

(The present dispute on the Saar pact is understood to hinge on a German claim for the right for political parties to continue pressing for reunion of the rich industrial territory with Germany after a referendum on the proposed new statute to govern the territory has been held.)

PAPERS' VIEWS

Foreign Ministry sources say that the Federal Government does not intend to resume talks with France before the debate in the Bundestag (Upper House).

West German newspapers have tended to take the line that the Upper House will not make difficulties. But it is re-

liably understood that Dr. Konrad Adenauer, the Chancellor, does not share this view.

Last December the Upper House refused to give an opinion on the Saar agreement until Dr. Adenauer had given more details. Since then he has cleared up a few points with France but the Bundestag may well be still dissatisfied.

There is little doubt that the majority of the states represented in the Upper House will approve the three groups of treaties which are to give West Germany sovereignty and to rearm her in the Western European Union and Atlantic pact.

But the fortunes of the Saar agreement depend on the attitude of two states, Bavaria and Rhineland-Palatinate, which borders on the Saar, will not be able to take its decision until after the state Diet runs high against the Saar agreement.

In Bavaria the situation is similar except that Dr. Adenauer's friends there are not even in the Government.

BAVARIAN POSTPONEMENT

The Bavarian Government is expected to postpone its decision.

Constitutionally speaking the Bundestag can either claim that the Saar agreement affects state rights and that, therefore, the Upper House has the right to block it absolutely or can merely act as a consultative chamber.

It is not known which course it will take.

Today the Christian Democratic and Free Democratic Parliamentary Parties met in separate sessions to consider the Government crisis which has threatened to split the coalition.

The Free Democratic Party—opposed to the Saar pact—is to hold a joint session tomorrow with its Federal committee consisting of 47 delegates from the Federal states.

VICE-CHANCELLOR

This meeting is to decide on its attitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Herr Franz Blucher, the only Free Democratic Minister to vote for the Saar agreement in the Lower House ten days ago.

The delegates, according to political observers, will probably pass a motion of censure on Herr Blucher but not withdraw him from the Cabinet.—Reuter.

DUKE IN NICE

Nice, Mar. 8. The Duke of Edinburgh arrived here this afternoon in a twin-engine Valenta aircraft of the Royal Flight on his way to the British Home Fleet exercises in the Mediterranean.

He left Nice by road for Le Cannet, where he will stay until Thursday.—France-Press.

Son Acquitted Of Father's Murder

Paris, Mar. 8.

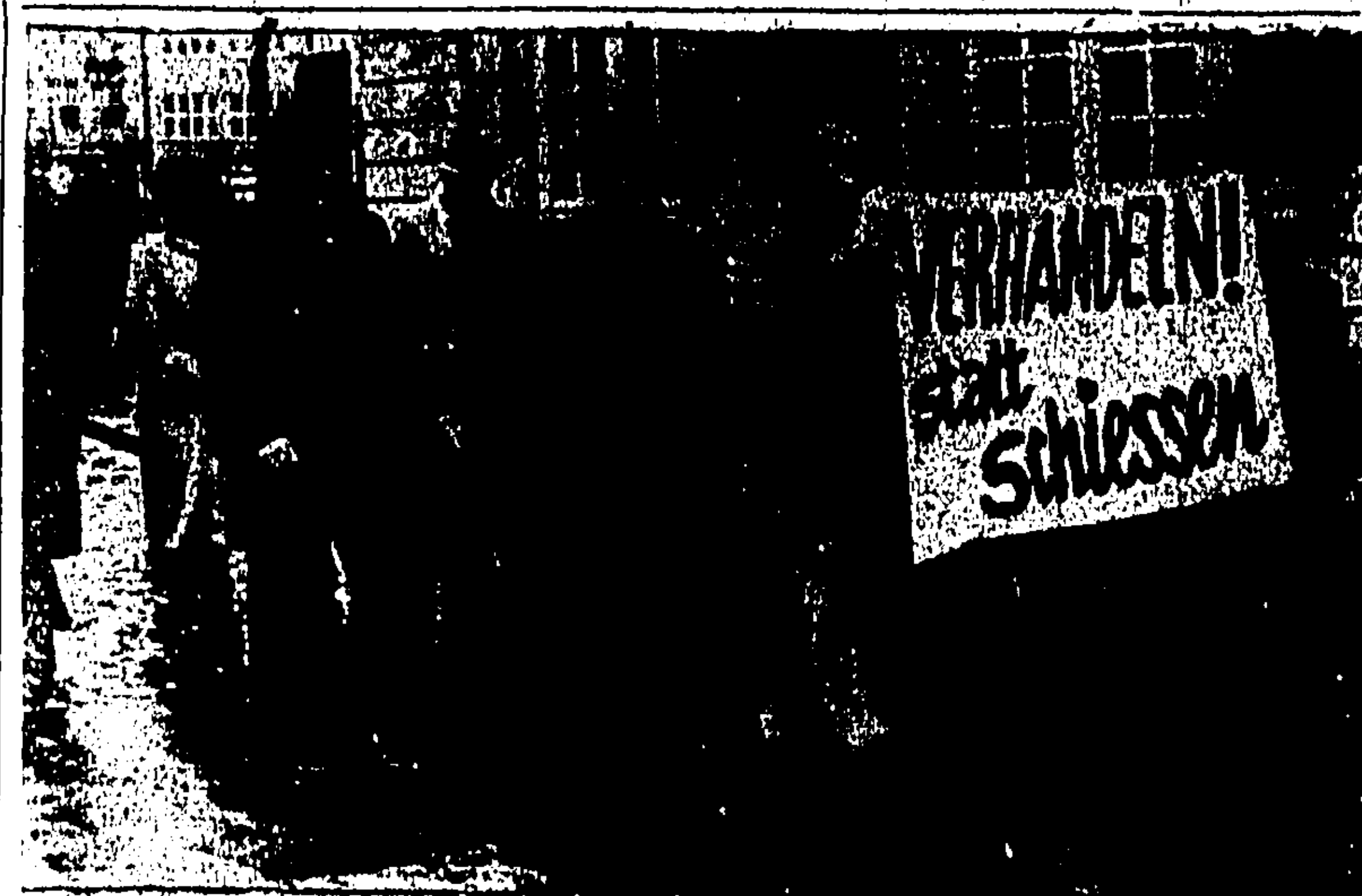
A Paris Court of Assizes today acquitted 53-year-old Bernard Barra, of the premeditated murder of his 79-year-old father, Bernard Dofny, on a Paris street on July 2, 1953.

The trial lasted less than a single day. Barra, the illegitimate son of Dofny, was abandoned by both parents at the age of four.

Before she died, his mother married a man who adopted the child. His father married a young girl, 14 years his junior, and in 1923 offered Barra a job and a home with his new family.

His father, however, became increasingly jealous as his young wife became increasingly attached to Barra and he soon sent his son from his home.

Eventually the young wife



SHIPMENT OF US CARGOES

Foreign Nations Accused Of Using Pressure

Washington, Mar. 8.

Top members of the House Merchant Marine Committee yesterday denounced foreign nations for bringing pressure against a law which requires that half of all United States Government-sponsored cargoes be carried by American ships.

Commons Will Consider Treason Bill

London, Mar. 8.

Parliament voted overwhelmingly today to consider a law extending treason charges to cover "enemies of the United Nations" such as British newsmen Alan Winington in Korea.

A Conservative Member of Parliament, Mr. Philip Bell, who introduced the draft, said that the present law was made in the days of conventional fighting.

"There is grave doubt whether it is applicable to wars which have the unhappy title of ideological wars," he said.

The House of Commons voted by 153 to 39 to allow him to enter the new bill.

AID AND COMFORT

It provides that persons who give "aid and comfort" or who "adhere to the enemies of the United Nations" would be guilty of treason if British forces were operating with the United Nations.

The measure followed a storm of protest here at an official Government report detailing brutality and torture suffered by British war prisoners in the Korean war. But most indignation was aroused by the conduct of four British Communists, including Winington, who made propaganda for the Chinese Reds in the prisoner of war camps.—United Press.

A member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Thor C. Tollefson, top Republican on the Committee, said that foreign nations are threatening to boycott purchase of American farm surpluses in an effort to scuttle American efforts to strengthen its merchant fleet.

Mr. Tollefson told the House he is convinced that some Administration officials are "being influenced by pressure from foreign nationals."

Under the Government's three-year programme, \$300,000,000 worth of farm surpluses would be given to foreign nations and \$700,000,000 would be sold for foreign currency. But 50 per cent of the produce must be carried by American ships.

Mr. Tollefson said that a group of European nations have agreed that if the 50-50 shipping rule is applied there will "be no surplus American farm products."

Another House of Representatives member, Mr. Herbert C. Bonner, said that it "comes with poor grace" for nations which have been the "recipient of our charity" to "stoop to the practices they are opposing to."

He said that if opponents of the 50-50 rule succeed in scuttling it, "it will drive our merchant marine from the high seas."—United Press.

Woman's Gall Bladder Removed In Error

Detroit, Mar. 8. A Detroit surgeon today agreed to pay \$7,500 damages to a woman who had been taken to a hospital as an emergency case with two fingers cut and who came off the operating table without her gall bladder.

The surgeon pleaded that he was not responsible for the erroneous operation. He had been told, he said, that there was a sick woman ready for an operation and, with the family doctor of a different patient watching, he took out the gall bladder.

When the woman woke up and saw bandages around her abdomen, she was told that they had had to graft skin from her stomach.

An X-ray later revealed that she was minus her gall bladder.—France-Press.

Amsterdam, Mar. 8. Four British mine-sweepers with a total complement of 500 officers and men, arrived here today for a six-day courtesy visit.

They are the Bramble, Albatross, Larkspur and Pickle. On Saturday they will be open to the public.—China Mail Special.

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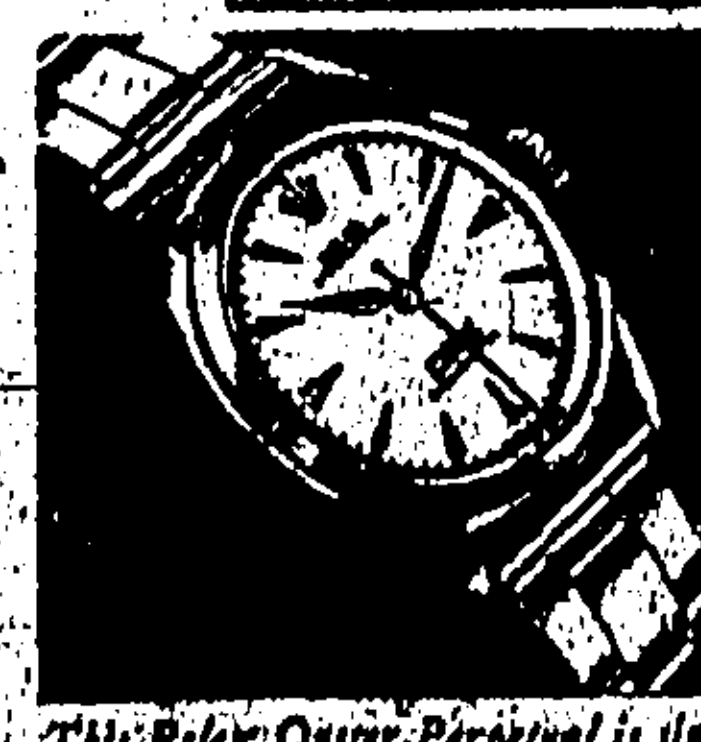
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BOOKING AT SKINNER'S.

Would your watch have kept time on the sea-bed?

WEARING A Rolex Oyster Perpetual, a professor of Milan University went for a swim off Capri. But the strap-buckle was loose, and his watch broke from his wrist, and sank to the bottom. Without much hope, the professor asked some divers, working nearby, to keep an eye open for his watch. Surprisingly, seven days later, they actually found it, and it was still keeping perfect time. It is not really so incredible. For this superb watch, completely protected from water and sand by the famous Oyster waterproof case, is automatically wound by the Perpetual "rotor" mechanism—another Rolex invention.

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ROLEX

A landmark in the history of Time measurement

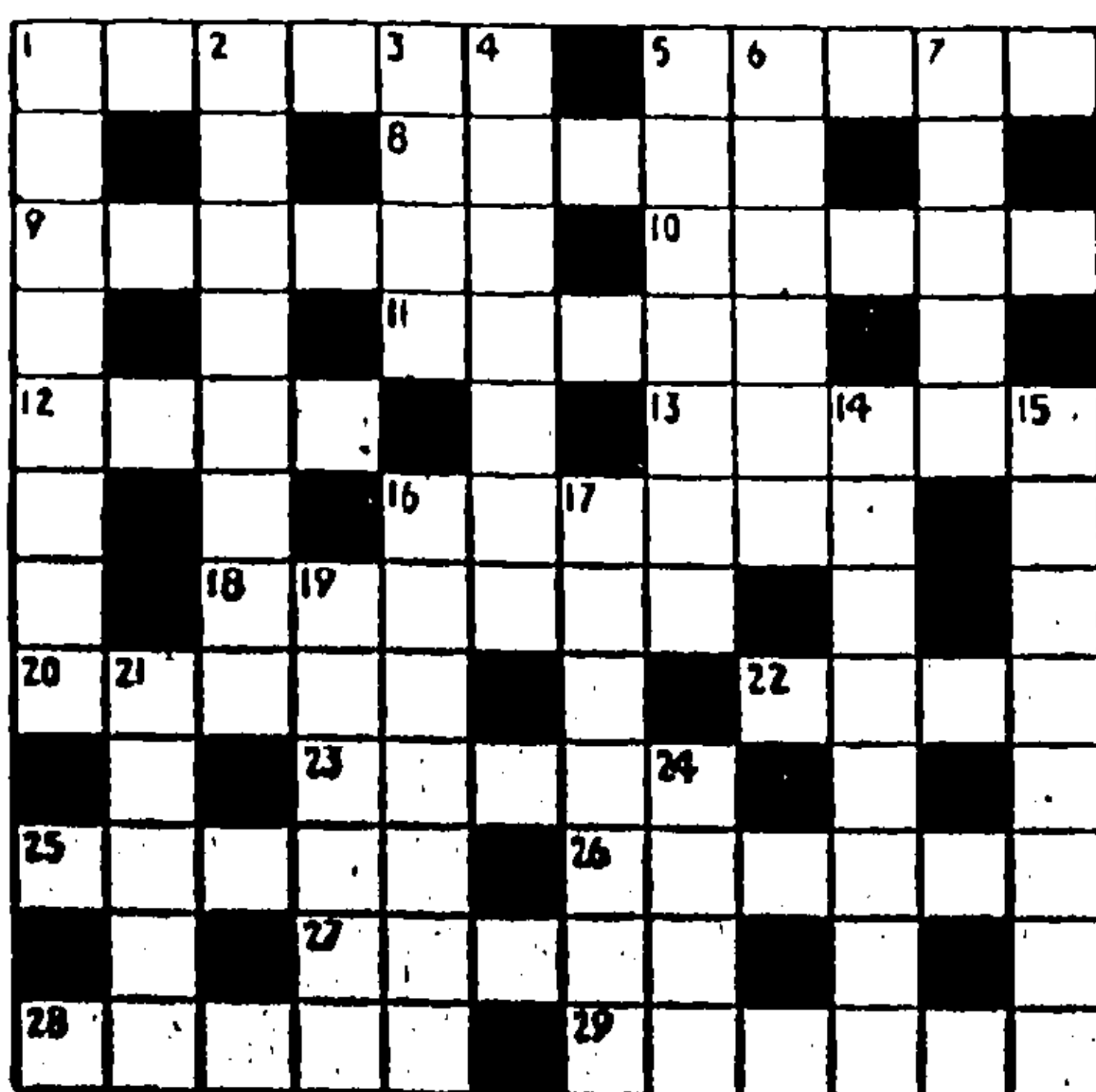
ROLEX Chronometer—Official Timepiece of Panagra Airlines

ROLEX Chronometer—Official Timepiece of Panagra Airlines

ROLEX Chronometer—Official Timepiece of Panagra Airlines

ROLEX Chronometer—Official Timepiece of Panagra Airlines

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Writer (6).
- 5 Chains of rocks (5).
- 8 Attack (5).
- 9 Skiff (6).
- 10 Elector (5).
- 11 Kind of cap (5).
- 12 Excursion (4).
- 13 Hazards (5).
- 14 Spot (5).
- 15 Wore away (6).
- 16 Burdened (5).
- 22 Spheres (4).
- 23 Dish of cold vegetables (5).
- 24 Bird (5).
- 25 Fastened down (5).
- 26 Parties (5).
- 27 Encounters (5).
- 29 Tinty (5).

DOWN

- 1 Ghostly (6).
- 2 Mended (5).
- 3 Part of fish-hook (4).
- 4 Came in (7).
- 5 Venerated (7).
- 6 Foreign (6).
- 7 Monstrosity (5).
- 14 Alarmed (5).
- 15 Goes down (5).
- 16 Given (7).
- 17 Occupants (7).
- 18 Opposes (6).
- 21 Spry (5).
- 24 Rush (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD: Across: 1 Copied, 5 Budge, 8 Veil, 9 Permit, 11 Uncle, 12 Talons, 14 Roar, 16 Budge, 18 Hoard, 19 Excess, 20 Passed, 24 Trail, 25 Tedious, 26 Ewer, 27 Naked, 28 Heron, Down: 1 Capt, 2 Part, 3 Evil, 4 Detour, 5 Blunder, 6 Duchess, 7 Erected, 10 Major, 15 Chasten, 16 Ransack, 19 Adopted, 17 Mount, 18 Dancer, 21 Song, 23 Pace, 25 Ings.



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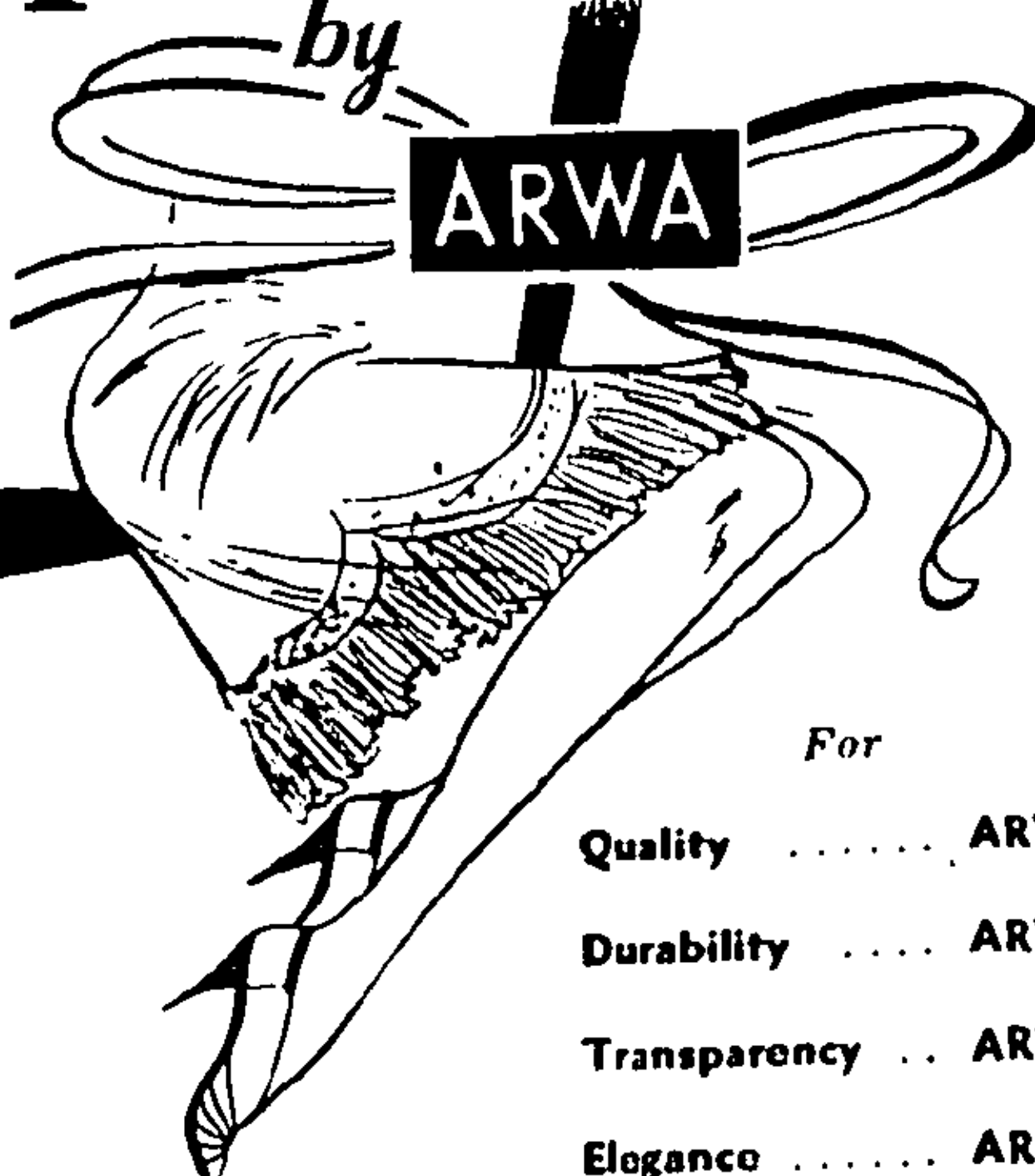
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Flying Officer T. Bate stands by the stone cairn memorial to the crew of the Baron Inverdale who were massacred on the island of Masirah in 1904.

Nathaniel Gubbins

A WHIFF of cheap perfume and a squeaky little voice saying "Good morning, Sourpuss," told me that the Fairy Wishful Thinking was with me again.

The tiny pest was sitting on the end of the typewriter carriage swinging her legs and dabbling at her nose with a grubby little powder puff.

"Still that twenty past eight mouth," she said. "You had a twenty past eight mouth the last time I saw you."

I reminded her there was a war on then.

"Yes, I remember," said the Fairy. "Sourpuss was very unhappy about the war, but I told him it would be all right in the end. And it was all right, wasn't it?"

I said, "It depends on what you mean by all right."

"I expect Sourpuss's worry-ing about another war now," said the Fairy. "But he needn't because there won't be one."

I said, "Then why am I paying outrageous taxes for armaments?"

"That's because people won't trust that kind of Mr. Bulgaria," said the Fairy, "and that kind of Mr. Molotov and all the other kind Russians."

I said, "Molotov looks about as kind as a crocodile."

"All they want is world peace," said the Fairy, "and so those dear, funny little Chinese."

I said, "If the funny little Chinese ever manufactured guided missiles with a range of 10,000 miles, they would think it very funny to fire them at anybody. That's the Chinese sense of humour."

"Oh, what a sad Sourpuss it is," said the Fairy, "always looking on the gloomy side. Think of the boom that's coming this year."

I said, "Boom!"

"Yes, boom," said the Fairy. "My newspaper asked: 'Is there a boom coming?' and the happy, jolly editor shouted back in lovely big type, 'Yes, yes, yes, Prosperity's just round the corner.'"

I said, "That's what they told each other in America before the Wall Street crash in 1929."

"The Stock Exchange is booming," said the Fairy. "Boom, boom, boom. Trade is booming. Boom, boom, boom. Exports are booming. Boom, boom, boom."

I said, "Stop that. It sounds like the beginning of another war."

"Stockbrokers are making piles of money," said the Fairy. "I said, 'Bless 'em all.'"

"And soon the horrid snow will melt away," said the Fairy. "The spring will be here and that clever Mr. Butler will take five shillings off income tax in the next Budget."

I had nothing to say to that.

"I'm going to be a year of miracles of science, miracles of trade, miracles of prosperity. In fact, it's going to be so wonderful that even old Sourpuss will cheer up. He might even believe in fairies."

I said, "It would be easier to believe in fairies than that bit about income tax."

caused by the east wind blowing suddenly up from the sea and catching livers unawares.

The wind from the sea not only penetrates ordinary wind-downs and front doors, it penetrates double windows and double front doors. It even penetrates sealed double windows and sealed double front doors.

It howls round corners, troubles its force tunnelling down alleys, and blows people helplessly down side streets. Ex-Indian Army men with over-sensitive livers usually stay at home at this time of the year. But they will tell you that the wind penetrates brick walls and catches them at night as they lie cursing in bed.

The wind from the sea affects livers male and female, young and old, making them argumentative and very temperamental. Men who have lifted the elbow too often recently snarl at each other about labour disputes and Communist swine, women who have been eating too much for a fortnight snarl at each other about the cost of living, the insolence of "shop girls," and the reintroduction of food controls if the Labour Government is elected again.

Little children, their chocolate livers revived by the weather, quarrel at parties and punch each other's noses in the street, and even doggies who have eaten too many biscuits lately are more savage than usual.

Brought into bars by furious men and women suffering from the local malaise, the liverish doggies leap barking at each other, biting ears, noses, and tails as they roll on the floors in mortal combat, while the men and women are obliged to shout louder about strikers and "shop girls" to be heard above the noise of the doggies.

If the wind blows much longer and livers are damaged too hard, it won't be long before argument and will soon be rolling on the floors with the doggies, biting ears and noses.

Yes, and maybe tails, too. Sometimes the conversation is indistinguishable from the chattering of monkeys.

Thanks, No Custard

IT is becoming increasingly clear that the problem about world population outpacing world food supplies will soon be settled because people will be frightened to eat anything.

In the jolly little B.B.C. series about oinkness in the kitchen we were informed about hairy legs and full of milkers, walking across the sugar and doing the breast stroke in the milk, mother blue-bottles using the Sunday joint as a maternity ward, and the love that all germs cherish for warm custard.

It seemed that the germs waited until the custard had cooled to the right temperature, swooped on it, and were so encouraged by its warmth, and nourishment that an unmarried germ could find himself a wife before the custard was cold.

But there was one gleam of hope for those who thought of fasting to save their livers. Germs, like us, don't like stale bread and biscuits.

So there you are. No kippers, no fruit, no sugar, no milk, no meat, no vegetables, and certainly no custard.

If you want to live long, be sure to eat all your stuff yourself.

Masirah Island, the entrance to the Gulf of Oman, has many names. It is "Ghost Island," "Jerry-Can Island," and "Masacre Island." A less habitable place could not be imagined, yet ancient pirates and modern wars have made it important.

It is only forty miles long and 15 wide at its broadest point. Western military experts have been giving it long looks as a possible second-line defence point backing up the long stretch of Russian border between Turkey and Pakistan.

Root Of All Evil

EVER since financier Gubbins risked savings in some little Stock Exchange gambles he has lost the calm, unruffled manner so much envied by the nervous, unhappy rich.

At the beginning of the winter he used to wake up in the morning worrying about Test matches. If no Test match was being played he would sleep late but if the contest to retain the Ashes was being fought in Australia (10 hours ahead of our time) he would wake at 6.30 a.m., rush downstairs, make some tea, and switch on to the Light Programme for the broadcast at 7 a.m.

Usually the voices so far away sounded like drowning men coming up for the last time, but by listening carefully through the howls of Little the Devil Cat demanding her breakfast he could usually form some idea how the match was going. Even when the fortunes of the game were against us he was not furious. His money was not staked on the result.

But with the Stock Exchange game you never know what's going on. Gains and losses can be affected by strikes, exports, rumours, and a lot of half-mad people in Wall Street, now in the middle of a selling wave. The only thing you can be certain about is the Stock Exchange, but by listening carefully through the howls of Little the Devil Cat demanding her breakfast he could usually form some idea how the match was going. Even when the fortunes of the game were against us he was not furious. His money was not staked on the result.

Therefore on mornings when Test matches are not being played, and Gubbins is now waking thinking about Bats, Imps, Gussies, Can Pacs, and some mysterious person called Buffles who appears to own mines somewhere in South Africa. So far Gubbins has had nothing to do with either Buffles or Gussies because he thinks they have frivolous, unbusinesslike names, but he gets into a terrible flap about Imps, Bats, and Can Pacs.

Instead of rushing downstairs to switch on the cricket news he grabs the papers to look at the financial columns, not understanding a word of them, but running a feverish eye down "Closing Prices and Changes."

If Imps are up 3d. he feels like having a couple of eggs for breakfast. He also feels he can afford them. But when he finds that Bats are down 4½d. he changes his mind and settles for one egg. On one occasion when Bats, Imps, and Can Pacs were all down he felt he was facing ruin, and the sight of an egg made him feel sick.

Sometimes, when Bats, Imps, and Can Pacs are all up, Gubbins feels clever and important. A telephone call to the broker will make him a little money free of tax and rid him of his anxieties. But when he rings the broker he finds that either he owns the wrong stock ("It's 'A' shares that have gone up," says the broker, "Gussies have gone down") or the broker has him passionately not to sell as everybody expects a bonus issue in the spring.

So Gubbins is left bewildered and helpless with the burdens he is not allowed to sell a penny in his financial game, his dreams haunted by visions of cynical, laughing stockbrokers escaping abroad with his money. This morning Imps and Can Pacs were down, but as Bats were up Gubbins managed to shake down a small slice of cash.

Ferment In The Middle East . . . Part 7

STRATEGIC VALUE OF JERRY-CAN ISLAND

By Harold Guard

In a ghost-infested desert island where Captain Kidd may have buried pirate treasure, a young Arab explains his countrymen's mistrust of "imperialists." The military value of this island, a World War II air base, probably depends, in case of another conflict, on this mistrust not deepening.

Once Masirah Island, near the southern tip of which belongs to the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman, was part of the seas and coastlines controlled by pirates, and local legend has it as a lair of Captain Kidd.

The Royal Navy tamed the pirate coast 85 years ago. It became the Trucial Coast, taking its name from the perpetual truce imposed on the warring rulers of the sheikhdoms dotting the vast and trackless desert of southern Arabia.

The Royal Air Force maintains a staging post on the island, commanded by a 21-year-old Welsh flying officer, Terence Bate.

"This is why we call it 'Jerry-Can Island,' young



One of the petrol drum villages on Masirah. (All Photos By Charles Dawson)

Bate said as he showed us a graveyard of derelict vehicles and hundreds of thousands of rusted gasoline drums — relics of World War II, when the United States Air Force shared the base.

There are the rusted remains of expensive trucks and diesel locomotives, mounds of aeroplane parts and centrifugal pumps, and dump after dump of gasoline jerry-cans which once cost £2 each. They are still valuable to the native islanders, who have forsaken their goat-skin tents for hovels built from the cans stacked end on end.

A huge hangar still houses the ghosts of aircraft, and the identifiable remains of a Liberator bomber and a P38 fighter indicate the type of warfare waged from this remote spot.

Uneasy Truce

Even today the island must rank high among the most expensive bases to maintain. Every drop of water must be distilled, at a cost of one gallon of petrol for eight gallons of fresh water, to fill the needs of 23 airmen, a garrison of 45 Oman Levies and hundreds of Arab labourers who come to work at Masirah from the mainland of Muscat, nine miles distant.

Whatever the expense, officials in this area say Britain must hang on to its twenty rights for its strategic value in Middle East defence, and insofar as Western plans depend on the good will of the local rulers, it is RAF policy and responsibility to help maintain the uneasy truce of the blood feuds which helped reduce this area to poverty.

Londoner despite his thick Irish brogue. He told me he lives in Baker Street, "next door to Sherlock Holmes."

Although the birmen have seen neither ghosts nor treasure, the Arabs tell of certain seasons when giant turtles come in from the sea to lay their eggs on the Masirah beaches, and how one of them once uncovered a buried board of Maria Theresa silver dollars.

The islanders gazed with wonderment at the beach next day. Strewed over a large area were shining dollars, and everyone started digging for more. They dug deep and came to a hard underlayer like limestone. "They believe there is a stone building beneath the sands," Moore explained. "They have asked us to use dynamite to blast it up, but we have no permission for that sort of thing."

Truth Hidden

It was on Masirah that I met a 20-year-old Arab born in England of a Yemenite father and a Northumberland mother. The young man, Norman Abdo, left England when he was 14 and went to the Yemen with his father, entering the country as a Yemeni national. He felt completely at home in language and custom, and brought out a fund of stories of life in the "forbidden kingdom."

"It is always raining in the Yemen—just like England," he said. "But it is a lush and warm country, growing every kind of fruit. My father has a big farm. He grows coffee and a very expensive leaf which the Arabs chew to give them a lift."

"I have met the Imam, King Ahmed, and have drunk coffee with him, and his son Badr is my friend."

"The Imam himself is a fair-minded man. He has absolute rule but does not seek to oppress the people. It is his subordinates who are corrupt. They hide the truth from the Imam. There have been many heads cut off in the Yemen in recent months as the Imam discovers those around him who are false."

"The Imam just does not trust the British. He believes they are like a man you invite to your house to take tea; he stays to dinner, then he sleeps in your house, and after a while you cannot get rid of him. Ahmed will not allow British into the Yemen, and even the Governor of Aden cannot enter the kingdom easily," Abdo said.

No Solution

He disclosed that the Imam is currently employing German and Italian technicians on development schemes because he feels he will be able to clear them out of the country when it pleases him.

As far as Abdo could see, there was no solution to King Ahmed's hatred of the British. "He looks on the British as usurpers in Arabia. He claims the British-administered Protectorate to be part of the Yemen kingdom. He thinks the British effort to make a federation in the Protectorate is an imperialist move."

"Of course," Abdo concluded, "The Yemen is nothing as a military power. But as an Arab state, it has influence with the other Muslim nations, and this influence could make or break Western plans in the Middle East."

(Copyright: All Rights Reserved)



A veiled Arab woman, Masirah Island. The woman's face is hidden by the privacy of this custom.

Cycling's Personality Of The Week—Jim Gower

By "NTACA"

Our Personality of the Week is the lanky Cygnet CC rider Jim Gower, who in build and position is reminiscent of the fabulous Coppi, but whose style of riding is erratic enough to be distinctive on its own.

The six-foot, 23-year-old speed man started racing at the tender age of sixteen, taking part in all types of road work, but specialising in Massed Start racing, for which purpose he joined the British League of Racing Cyclists. In 1953 he took first place in the classic Berwyn Road Race, over 75 miles, and in the same year represented his Unit in the RAF Five Day Stage Race, finishing with a noteworthy nineteenth position in a very hot field.

In the Time Trial field, his best times are 25 miles—1-2-10, 50 miles—2-7-50, at one time the Colony Record. He still holds the Colony record for the New Territories Road circuit, with a time of 2-21.

A firm believer in the "plenty of Miles" training routine, he does not do any additional exercises, even edging his speed and endurance by pushing himself to the limit in his training, because he does not think it fits in well with cycling.

At present he finds it hard to get sufficient time off for the rigorous training programme he would like to follow, and his riding has suffered in consequence. Another sore point is his own wardrobe, which he considers inadequate for the weather, and he has been forced to collect "Pots" for his cycling kit.

His hopes for the future include an early return to his civilian club, the Castle CC, and selection for the Amateur "Circuit of Britain" Road Race.

A line sportsman as well as an out-and-out cyclist, he was recently voted "Rider of the Year" in the poll conducted by this column. When he returns to UK in July of this year, Colony cycling will be the poorer by the loss of a notable personality.

SATURDAY'S TRIAL
Saturday's Kaitiaki 50 Time Trial was marred by strong winds, which prevented the majority of riders from achieving any improvement in their best times for the "SCMP" Best All Rounder Cup.

Won by Beck with an excellent ride of 2-5-12, only five seconds outside his own Colony record, the race was notable only for the number of "DNFs", and the first-ever Team victory by the Pegasus CC.

At the end of 25 miles it appeared as though Beck was at long last to be beaten. Bouch having a lead of over 50 seconds. However, Bouch faded on the second half to finish with a good, but not good enough 2-7-45, with Sanderson of REME coming in third place in 2-12.

Bouch and Begg (Essex) were the only riders to improve on their previous bests, while Ross completed his "50" to come into the three-distance table of the BART Competition.

Only five riders have so far completed the three distances, while fourteen others are waiting for the "100s" to come along. Beck easily leads the two-distance table, one minute and eleven seconds in front of Roll, who in turn heads Foster and Hurford, five minutes in arrears. (See table appended below).

"STICKING POINT"

I had an enquiry the other day from one of the Huser riders, who says he has reached the "Sticking Point" in his training, which has been of the "Steady Miles" routine. He has been unable to increase his speed, although his stamina has improved.

I suggested to him that he carry out what I call the "Zatopek" style of training, which can also be used as a method of racing for those who find that riding at a steady pace does not suit them.

It consists simply of riding at racing speed for a distance of four or five miles, following this with an "easy" stretch of five miles at about 10 m.p.h. Then another speed burst, this alternation to be carried out until at least the distance of the race for which you are training has been covered at the higher speed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Fijians

Sir—These of you who only have an inkling of Rugby Football would do well to watch the date of the next game against the Fijians. These players have demonstrated how the game should be played. They put new life into it and manifested how domesticated and unattractive "local" rugby has become. Moreover, the manner of hard tackling by both sides would be an object lesson to soccer players, and I warmly recommend the latter to attend.

The sponsors of the Fijian series are to be congratulated, but I wonder why so little publicity was given to it. A few elementary rules page would not be inappropriate to clarify any "mysteries" that may exist in some minds about the intriguing game, so that those of the public here who are watching it.



J. Gower, Cygnets CC.

FIJIANS BEAT CIVILIANS 41-0, BUT THE LOCALS WERE NOT DISGRACED

By "PAK LO"

Fijians 41 points (7 goals, 2 tries), Combined Civilians nil. That was the final score yesterday evening when these two teams met under floodlights on the Club ground in Happy Valley.

What a terrific game it was!!!!!! And what a wonderful surprise the Civilians gave the spectators. Although they lost by 41 points they were not in the least disgraced.

Far from it. In fact if every member of the Civilians played regularly the way they did last night, quite a large number of them would be in the running for the Colony fifteen.

The Fijians were 'by far' the better team, and they played the ball around much more than usually seen here. Time and again the Fijian three were sent off and Levula would break through and go tearing at a fantastic rate down the wing.

Levula has a marvellous acceleration from an almost standing start and it was this which upset the Civilian defence. But as he reached the 25 a Civilian three would be waiting to tackle him, and what grand tackles they were.

Players who all staxen have been content to play at an opportunist as he passed, last night launched themselves into full-blooded tackles of the kind expected from U.K. internationalists.

In defence Scott and Kilvert were outstanding. Both played the game of their lives. Behind them Petrie backed them up with some lovely touch-kicking, and tackling. O'Reilly the new fly half played a steady game and was seldom flustered. His one fault was when he kicked off. Then he kicked too far ahead and the Fijians snapped up their chances.

Pemman at wing forward again proved that this is his correct position with a grand display.

The Fijians won the major share of the set scrums, and this greatly helped toward their great victory. Oddly enough, most of the scores came through individual runs and seldom did the classic three movement result in a try.

However, these Fijian three can and will probably run the legs off most of their opponents in their games here. As for tackling they are past masters in that art.

It is almost hopeless to try and pick out outstanding men in the team but Levula was the best three seen for many a long day and, Savana at scrum half played a magnificent game. Radrodri the captain only missed two conversions, a fact which speaks volumes about his kicking.

Within seconds of the kick-off Pokoua attempted a drop at goal, and though the ball sailed between the uprights it was disallowed as it was a punt. Then the Civilian broke through from a lineout on the Fijian 25 but just failed to touch down.

Before the game was much over the Fijians opened the scoring. Savana broke away from a scrum, sold a lovely dummy and passed on to Baba who scored well out. The conversion was missed. 20-0.

This was followed by a beautiful passing move from a scrum. Savana passed to Basoli who passed to Lotawa, who, with a fine run scored under the posts. Radrodri converted. 20-0.

Given two chances to score with penalties. Both were only about five yards inside the Fijian half and both were narrowly missed.

Once more Levula came to the fore with a terrific run which outpaced the defenders and took him across the line. He turned, and ran toward the posts, and was just about to place the ball down when, like a bolt from the blue, Spencer came whizzing in from nowhere and lifted the ball.

This was the perfect play for this spot as an ordinary tackle would have left Levula score. From the five yard scrum the Civilian cleared upfield.

The Fijians followed this with a lovely passing movement between Levula and Tavage which ended with Tavage scoring. Radrodri converted. 30-0.

Finally Savana took the ball to the Civilian 25. Radrodri took the ball in the lineout and with a long pass to Gavidi sent off the threat. Gavidi passed to Baba, who in turn passed to Levula who scored. Radrodri converted. 41-0.

With the Civilian attacking with a good foot rush, the game, which was well refereed by Lotshaw, ended.

THE TEAMS

Combined Civilian: Petrie, Scott, Marshall, Kilvert, O'Reilly, Cole, Dunncliffe, Russell, Slack, Farquharson, Bryan, Shelly, Pemman.
Fijians: Balekana, Mucunabitu, Rokoua, Baba, Levula, Gavidi, Savana, Lotawa, Wapavolau, Basoli, Bogilani, Tavage, Radrodri, Ravula, Nabaro.



The Problems Of The Young Athlete

"Youth will be served," is an old saying, but true, to a certain extent. Another saying, "It is the old dog for the hard road," also makes sound reasoning at times.

The great danger to youth in games is that there is no conserving of energy and that the under nineteens tend to burn themselves out. The nervous strain on a young player in an important match is much greater than it is upon the seasoned veteran. In war, it has been found that it is the very young who crack up, and seem more likely to succumb to illness than their older companions.

In all branches of sport we find again and again the young athlete of, say 16 to 19 years of age showing marvellous potentialities, yet ultimately failing to fulfil the promise. This applies to sports such as football and running where the effort is continuous, but does not apply to such games as cricket.

If the man-trainers would only learn their lesson from horse or dog trainers, they would be a great deal more careful of their young charges. Consider the care which young dogs receive—they are not allowed to run too much for fear of straining their hearts—and the same is true of young horses.

These animals were treated in the same way as young athletes they would never prove the gold mines that their owners rightly expect them to become.

NERVOUS EXHAUSTION

A boy of 16 or 18 years may look bulky and actually as big as a full-grown man, but at that age his gristle has not turned into bone. Apart from the physical exertion, we must remember that every competitive sport imposes a big strain on the nervous system. The effort involved in running half a mile is little compared with the nervous strain of running in a half-mile race. If we fail to conserve the nervous and muscular energy of our youths, but dissipate it, the result is that the young athlete is burnt out.

For every one who lasts, there is a score of promising ones who fall needlessly. It was written in 1940 that Alastair McCorquodale, ex-Guards Officer, unveiled himself as the then fastest white man in the world over 100 metres. This killed the notion that training must begin when children climb out of the cradle, for McCorquodale had devoted more time to cricket than athletics.

The early training of a youngster should be to develop organic strength. He should practise breathing exercises daily to oxygenate his blood, develop his chest and to give him increased mobility of ribs. A man with a fixed chest can never be a "stayer". His daily exercise should not leave him exhausted; the duration of the practice should be comparatively short.

Every youth should be taught a few general principles about food and digestion, for indigestion often brings about the failure of an athlete.

Unsuitable foods, unsuitable combinations of foods, hurriedly consumed meals or meals taken too near exercising have all proved the downfall of many an athlete. He should avoid diet, fats, by all means, but learn to eat simple, unadorned meals.

CORRECT HABITS

When correct habits of health are formed, they last, not only during a man's active sports career, but all his life. One often sees men who were prominent athletes in their younger days, but have become unsightly, slovenly specimens at 40, frequently with poor vitality and bad health.

The secret of success in any sport is the ability to conserve nervous energy and apply it to physical dexterity and strength. Coordination of muscles is made possible by the steadiness and perfect nerve-control given; and, in addition, there must be the alertness which instantly turns every circumstance to account. This is what enables a man to win what appears to be a losing game—to take advantage of every situation.

A youngster complaining of pains after a match, should never be ignored. If the pains persist after a day or two, it may be due to muscular soreness or growing pains as is so often thought, but rheumatism which, if neglected, may lead to consequences which will affect the boy for the rest of his life.

Toronto Wants 1960 Games

Toronto, Mar. 8. Mayor Nathan Phillips said today that he will try to persuade the International Olympic Committee to hold the 1960 Olympic Games in Toronto.

Phillips said he will support a proposal by Controller Joseph Ornish that Toronto put in its application for the games. The bid will get before the Olympic Committee when it meets in Paris in June—United Press.

Gavilan bitterly protested against the decision and promised he would file an official objection with the National Boxing Association in New York—United Press.

The Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Flamen Adams, said that the hearing concerns remarks made by Gavilan and his trainer, Mundito Medina, after a recent loss to Hector Constance of Trinidad.

Mr. Adams said that Gavilan and Medina shouted "crooks" and "robbers" after the fight, apparently aiming the remarks at the judges and referee, who gave a unanimous decision to Constance.

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Dower Wins European Flyweight Title

London, Mar. 8.

Dai Dower, British and Empire Flyweight Champion, was an easy winner against Nazzareno Giannelli (Italy) over 15 rounds for the Italian's European title.

The little Italian did not win a single round though he shared the honours in four of them, second, fourth, tenth and 14th.

Dynamic little Dai Dower was never in trouble. His youth, speed and lovely left proved too much for the Italian, nine years his senior.

Dower was on the offensive from start to finish but neither he nor his rival landed any really devastating punch throughout the fight and both were free from blood and scars as the bout ended.

Dower, unbeaten in 24 fights, set a new British record by taking three titles—British, Empire and European—in less than five months.

This 21-year-old youngster is now poised for a title bout with the World Champion Pascual Perez, of Argentina.

Ron Barton, the most promising British Lightweight for many years, beat Don Ellis, a coloured American living in Germany, the referee stopping the fight in the 7th round of a 10-round contest.

Barton had outclassed Ellis with a lesson in cool, calculated boxing and crisp punching when the referee stopped the fight with Barton pummeling Ellis on the ropes.—Reuter.

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Gavilan Ordered To Appear Before Board

Miami Beach, Mar. 8.

The Miami Beach Boxing Commission today ordered Kid Gavilan and his trainer to appear for a hearing here next Friday and threatened to suspend the former Welterweight Champion if he does not show up.

The Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Flamen Adams, said that the hearing concerns remarks made by Gavilan and his trainer, Mundito Medina, after a recent loss to Hector Constance of Trinidad.

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OXFORD CREW AGAIN BREAK RECORD

London, Mar. 8.

The Oxford crew today set up their second record on successive days while practising for the annual University Boat Race against Cambridge on Mar. 26.

Rowing in wintry conditions with snow falling, they covered the 1,800 yards from Hammer-smith Bridge to the mile post in two minutes, 40 seconds. This clipped one second off the record established by Cambridge in 1937.

Yesterday in their first outing on the Tideway, Oxford did a record four minutes, 30 seconds for the first mile from Putney Bridge. They plan to row a full course trial over four miles, 374 yards tomorrow.—Reuter.

TURPIN KNOCKS OUT GONZALEZ

London, Mar. 8.

Handolph Turpin, British Empire Light Heavyweight Champion, knocked out Gonzales, the first mile from Putney Bridge. They plan to row a full course trial over four miles, 374 yards tomorrow.—Reuter.

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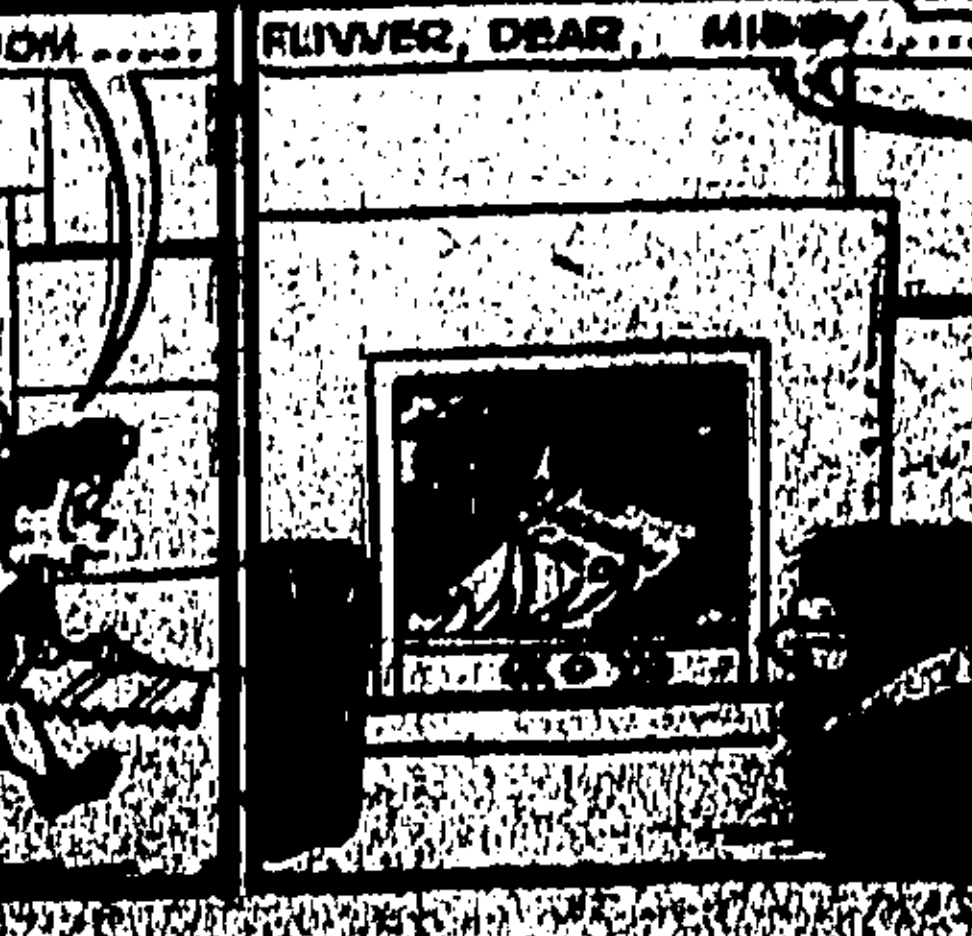
THE GAMBOLS



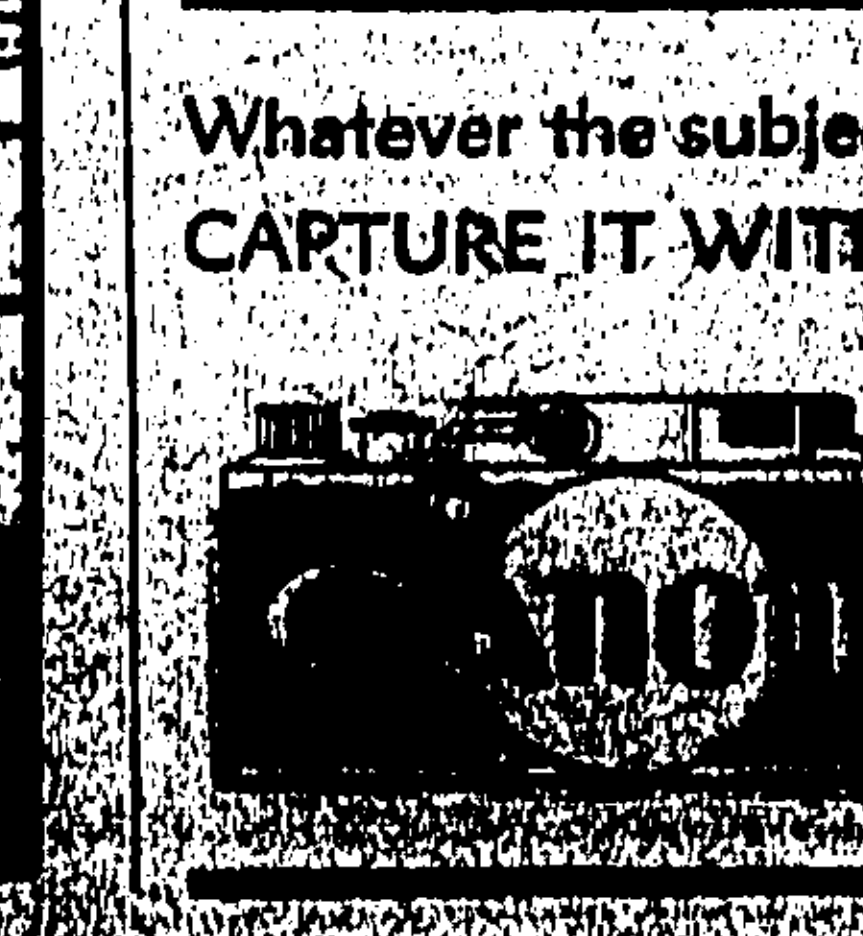
Barry Appleby



Whatever the subject CAPTURE IT WITH



Whatever the subject CAPTURE IT WITH



FANLING GOLF

The following are the draw and starting times for the Lusitania Cup scheduled to be played over 30 holes at Fanling on Sunday:

Old Course: 9.10 a.m. J. E. Noronha-W. C. Palmer; 9.20 a.m. W. H. Heath-N. P. Downie; 9.24 a.m. J. F. Shoemaker-E. C. Brown; 9.28 a.m. D. Shaw-A. H. Petrie; 9.36 a.m. A. D. Jones-H. B. de Thirion; 9.40 a.m. L. Anderson-P. G. Cornish; 9.44 a.m. G. O. W. Stewart-D. S. Robb; 9.48 a.m. W. L. T. Crunden-R. P. Kirk; 9.52 a.m. E. Cole-Austin; 9.56 a.m. A. Duff-G. J. MacLean; 10 a.m. J. Sutcliffe-R. R. Combs; 10.04 a.m. A. White-P. H. Tappart; 10.08 a.m. W. Nichols-P. H. Kent; 10.12 a.m. C. P. Basso-R. G. L. Oliphant.

New Course: 9.10 a.m. J. J. Cowperthwaite-J. C. van der Touw; 9.20 a.m. R. de Pina-R. Wilcoquet; 9.24 a.m. W. Gray-W. van Alet; 9.28 a.m. Dr. J. B. Mackie-W. G. Hickey; 9.36 a.m. E. Elliott-F. C. Stuckey; 9.40 a.m. N. A. Brown-P. D. Shadon; 9.44 a.m. E. W. D. Gore-J. D. Brinded; 9.48 a.m. A. Lopez-W. J. D. Cameron; 9.52 a.m. R. Blacklock-S. Allen; 9.56 a.m. J. P. Zimmern-A. B. Leighton; 10 a.m. J. H. Liang-J. P. Bello; 10.04 a.m. Frank Edwards-P. Birtwhistle; 10.12 a.m. U. Zung.

Smalley Mid-Week Cup
W. van Alet won the February Qualifier for the Smalley Mid-week Cup with a return of 75 less 10=Nett. 83. J. Huson being runner-up.

Prize Presentation
The presentation of prizes won during the Season will take place at Deep Water Bay on Saturday, 26th March. A mixed foursome competition will take place during the afternoon and it is hoped to arrange for a Buffet Supper and Cinema show in the evening, further details will be announced shortly and it is hoped that members will keep the date free from engagements.

Special Rail-Bus
Members are advised that on Sunday March 20 and thereafter, the Golfers' special Rail-bus will leave Kowloon Station at 8.10 a.m. instead of 8.10 a.m. as at present, arriving at Sheung Shui at 9.01 a.m. The Rail-bus will leave Sheung Shui on the return journey at 4.45 p.m. and it is scheduled to arrive at Kowloon at 7.31 p.m. There will also be changes in the times of arrival and departures of regular trains, details of these changes will be announced later.

LADIES' SECTION
The L.G.U. Medal for February, Silver Division, was won by Mrs. A. Hayes, with 85-12=73. The winner in the Bronze Division was Mrs. Stocker, 91-22=89.

The Captain's Cup Qualifier for February, Silver Division, was Mrs. Backe, who won after a re-play with Mrs. Birtwhistle, with a score of 90-18=72. The qualifier in the Bronze Division was Mrs. Wisely.

The Shanghai Foursomes, Miss Swallow, Mrs. Spranger, Mrs. A. M. Brown and Mrs. Gregg tied in a medal competition play on February 22, each returning nett 71. Miss Swallow winning on the best second nine holes with a score of 34½. Mrs. Spranger being second with 36.

The Bronze Championship final was played on Monday, March 7 and won by Mrs. Backe from Mrs. Anderson on the 18th hole. Mrs. Wat was the winner of the Old Course running Buggy for February with one down, Mrs. Laith being the winner of the New Course competition with three up. Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Laroche being successful in the final of the Knock-out Foursomes by beating Mrs. Hunter and Mrs. Leitch by two up and one to play. The Deep Water Bay Season starts on Tuesday, April 24 with a flag competition.

Penang Bookies Get Angry

Penang, Mar. 9.
The bookmakers at the Penang race track last week threatened that unless the police stopped interfering with them — they would stop breaking the law.

This was the gist of the message they sent officials after a number of leading bookmakers had boycotted the last races.

The boycott was a "reprisal" for recent police action in detaining and questioning several leading bookmakers at a race, they threatened a similar boycott.

This is the second time that the bookies, operating illegally here, have defied police authority. In August, 1953, when a police photographer took some pictures of punters placing bets with bookmakers at a race, they threatened a similar boycott.

Furthermore, they won. The offending photographs were destroyed.—France-Press.

HOME SOCCER

London, Mar. 8.
Grimsby Town beat Carlisle United by two goals to nil in the rearranged English League, III Northern Section match at Grimsby today. The match was originally postponed on January 8 because of an F.A. Cup tie between the two sides.



Selecting the occupant of the Top Spot this week was like picking the winner of a big race. There were so many possible and worthy contenders that I found it hard indeed to make a choice.

However, after due consideration I award the place of honour to the Tug-of-War team from 18 Field Ambulance for their precision performance in winning the Minor Units Championship last week.

Tug-of-War is one of those sports that calls for intensive team training and co-ordination and it was obvious from the well-drilled work of the Field Ambulance representatives that they had put a lot of effort into their preparation.

It is also a sport that calls for considerable combined enthusiasm, individual determination and by their continued success this season, the team showed that they had both qualities in adequate measure.

Congratulations to fleetfooted Lieutenant M. C. Sweeney of 14th Fd. Rgt. R.A., on breaking two more Colony records. This young runner is having an excellent season and there is every indication that he may yet lower still further the new 440 yards and 400 metres times he set on Saturday at the Hongkong University sports meeting.

PROUD TEAM
The final of the Land Forces Team Boxing Championship at Fanling on Monday provided some fine fighting and it was a proud Northampton team that collected the trophy from the hands of Brigadier R.H. Bellamy DSO, Deputy Commander, Land Forces.

The Brigadier, who is a familiar and enthusiastic spectator at the majority of Army sporting events, paid fitting tribute to both the winning and losing teams, and he laid particular stress on the fine standard of sportsmanship that had been displayed by all the contestants.

At Northampton were worthy winners in the end although there must have been some regret that such accomplished boxers as Cpl. Hilton, L/Cpl. Carey and L/Cpl. Bowen should be on the losing side.

The victorious Land Forces team will now go to Singapore to represent the Colony in the FARELF Championship. In the final they will tackle the winners of the Malaysia-Singapore Series and when they step into the ring they will take with them the very best wishes of all who are interested in Army boxing here. And a very special word of commendation to all those folks who were responsible for the really excellent arrangements at Fanling.

The Army soccer team is well represented in the Combined Services side to meet the Combined Chinese in the Victory Shield match under floodlights at the Club Stadium tomorrow. Higgins, Osborne, Murray, Morris and Walsley are in the line-up while Lewis, Norris, Crompton and Farnsworth are included among the reserves. The game is due to start at 8.30 p.m.

FUTURISTIC
If you happen to walk along the street bordering the Kowloon Wharfs you will probably notice four rather futuristic looking objects standing near the door of one of the wood carving shops with which the street abounds. The objects are in fact two pairs of water skis in process of construction and they are being made to the order of the enterprising sculptor I told you about a few weeks ago.

I asked one of them where he got the specifications for the design and was told rather coldly that the design was original. The proud future owner added with a smile that he hoped they were the right shape to ensure that he didn't get faked up too quickly with his friends in the Underwater Club.

Speaking of water skis brings me very neatly to my next subject. Are you interested in yachting...? If you are you will be pleased to hear that a series of lectures is now being held on the board of the yacht ELINOR which is moored in the Navy Yard at Kowloon.

Shek-O Ladies' Golf

The following is the draw for the Barry Cup:
Mrs. Goldman v. Mrs. Gregg.
Mrs. Marshall v. Mrs. Dawson.
Mrs. Spranger v. Mrs. Clarendon.
Mrs. Harrison v. Mrs. Birtwhistle.
Mrs. Voss v. Mrs. Tappart.
Mrs. Clague v. Mrs. Hunter.
Mrs. Armstrong v. Mrs. Wisely.
Mrs. Brown v. Mrs. Kealey.
The first round 40s played before March 24, the second before April 7, the third before April 21, and the final before May 9.

GRASSCOURT DOUBLES FINAL

Cheers Again For The Tsui Brothers As Ip And Tsai Win

Although the defending Champions, Ip Koon-hung and Edwin Tsai, retained the Colony Grasscourt Doubles title, the honours of the day went to the Tsui brothers, Wai-pui and Yun-pui for their grand display and fighting spirit in the final at Chater Road yesterday. Ip and Tsai won 6-4, 6-1, 8-6.

The cheers echoed and re-echoed for the beaten pair immediately after the match. Apart from their good show against the Champions, the Tsuis gained the crowd's admiration in their 19th year of competitive tennis.

The brothers first captured the Colony Grasscourt Doubles title in 1936 and since have won in no less than seven occasions—1936, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1947, 1948 and 1949.

If not for the last World War, which put a stop to their winning streak, the Tsuis might well have broken the record of another colonial combination—S. A. Rumball and H. D. Rumball—who reigned supreme for 11 successive years from 1925-1935.

Ip and Tsai by their victory yesterday won the Doubles title for the fifth time. They were winners in 1930, 1932, 1933, 1934.

It will take Ip and Tsai quite some time before they can emulate either of the brothers' or cousins' feats.

Ip and Tsai started with a one-game lead, but the Tsuis made it 1-1 with their smoother combination. The Champions raced on to 4-2 only for the Tsuis to level it but they faded

out for Ip and Tsai to take set at 6-4.

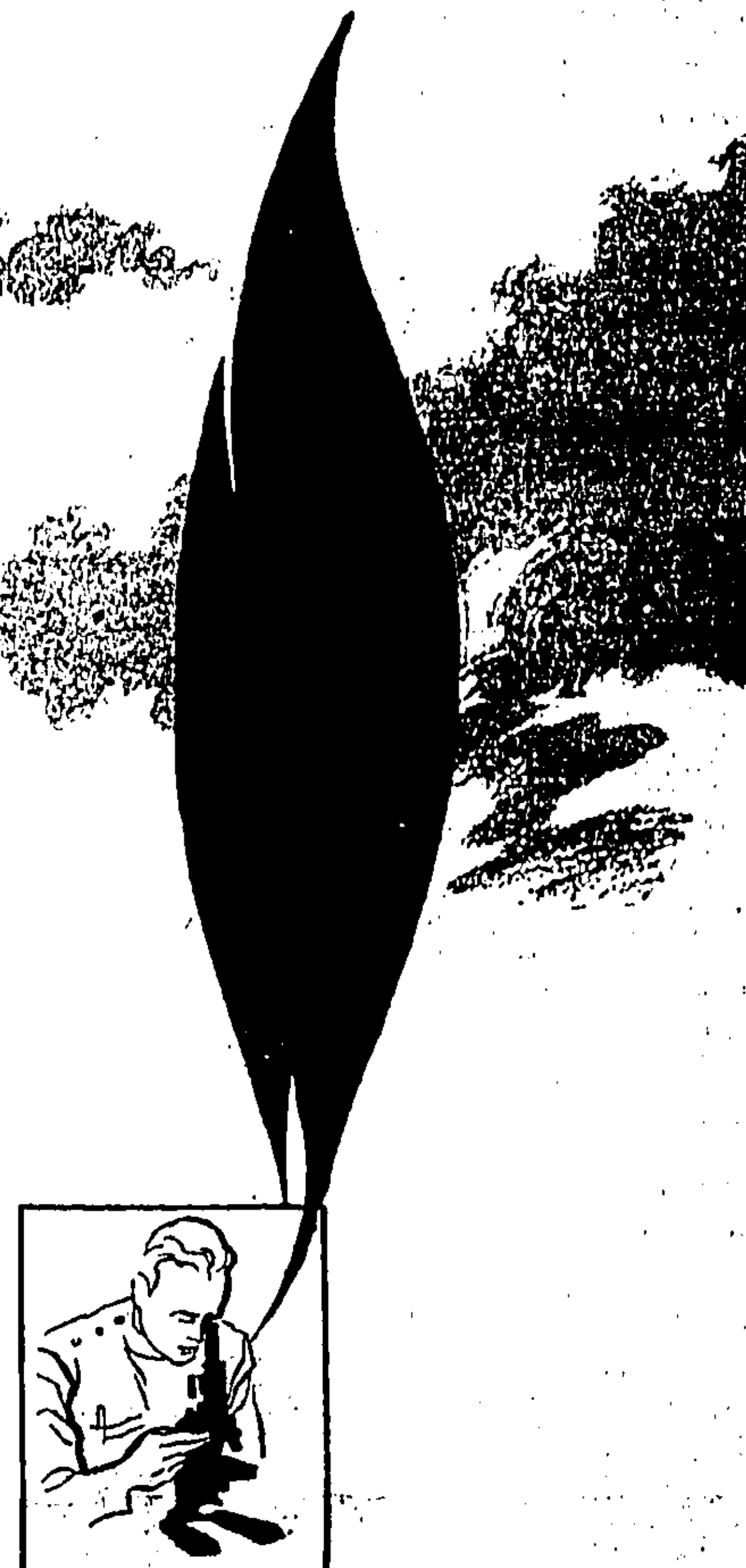
The Champions won the next set with practically no opposition. Ip, serving took five games in less than five minutes' play before conceding a game to the opposition for a two set lead.

The highlight of the Doubles final was the back-to-the-wall stand by the brothers, who with a two set deficit, fought back tenaciously to take a 4-1 and 5-2 lead.

PLAYING SUPERBLY
At this stage, the gallery cheered wildly for the under-dogs. It looked as if the Tsuis would win the set, as they were playing superbly.

They succeeded to dominate to some extent only. The luck

The flame that never dies...



Lucky Girls

By HENRY LONGHURST

Having had at least my own fair share of travel, I still look with benevolent envy upon Mrs. B. R. Bostock and her team of young ladies—the Misses Veronica Anstey, Gillian Atkinson, Bridget Jackson, Janette Robertson and Dorothea Somerville—whom she is to take on your in the Antipodes for six months in the summer.

How wise of the Ladies' Golf Union, when they found that for various reasons, matrimonial and otherwise, most of the seniors could not be away for so long, to say "very well, we will send the girls." And how gracious of their counterparts in Australia and New Zealand to reply "We shall be just as delighted to see them."

I like to think of them tracing out, in the atlases which not so long ago they were taking to school, the thirty-odd thousand miles they are due to travel and learning, as I hope, to say "Australia for Orstralia, Melb for Melbourne, and Manziez not Manizles."

Since writing which, I find I have been gazing into space for the past half hour, my mind returning nostalgically to many of the clubs at which they will play.

In Sydney, for instance, which they will be told is "more like America" but assuredly isn't, they will probably go first to Rose Bay, a mere taxi ride from the centre of the city, from whose balcony we watched the Orion performing curious evolutions in the Bay—"calibrating her instruments" as it later transpired.

BY MISTAKE

Then perhaps they will go to the Australian Club at Kensington, and here indeed they will feel at home, for the rows of lockers in the ladies' dressing room are named St Andrews, Troon, Carnoustie, Walton Heath, Sunningdale and such like. I know, because I walked in there by mistake.

And in case they do not make the same error in reverse I can inform them that the men's lockers are named after familiar

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English Air

In Auckland they may be taken first to Middleton, where thrushes and blackbirds hop about the fairways and sparrows chirp among the eaves with a curiously English air, though not so curious when you are informed that the ancestors of these birds were brought out from England to make the place seem like home.

I hope they will play, too, at Papanui, where the English party will feel most at home in Christchurch, where the streets are named after English bishops—Worcester, Gloucester, Hereford and others—and the River Avon, winding its way through Hagley Park, brings irresistibly to mind the Backs at Cambridge.

Here they will play at the hospitable Shirley Club, whose members claim it to be of more ancient vintage than any in England except Blackheath and Wimbledon.

The star performer of the party, Miss Janette Robertson, will have to wait a little longer, however, before she is well and truly home. If all, in fact, be the farthest point in her travels, an outpost of her native land more Scottish almost than Scotland—Dunedin.

What a wonderful prospect it all is, and what a wonderful game is going to open up to these young girls as they play their first matches.

Against skin disease and infection

DUOCO

WATER IS PRECIOUS

USE IT WISELY

Hongkong Footballer Of The Year

Members of the public are invited to nominate whom they consider to be Hongkong's Footballer of the Year for the current season.

It is a popularity poll organised by the China Mail, and nomination coupons will be received until the closing date to be announced later.

The two qualifications for nomination are:

- (1) Footballing prowess.
- (2) Sportsmanship on the field of play.

Nominations should be addressed to The Editor, China Mail, Wyndham Street, Hongkong.

To The Editor, China Mail.

My nomination for Hongkong's Footballer of the Year, taking into regard his playing ability and his sportsmanship on the field of play is

of the Club.

(Signed)

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FUNERAL

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today, passing The Monument
at 5.10 p.m.

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NOTICE

VEHICULAR FERRY

Owing to repairs to Piers,
the Vehicular Ferry Service
will be suspended as
follows:—

Thursday Evening
the 17th March, 1955
The Service will be
suspended from 9.00 p.m. to
1.00 a.m.

Friday Morning
the 18th March, 1955
The first ferry will com-
mence at 7.20 a.m. instead of
6.20 a.m.

Tuesday Evening
the 22nd March, 1955
The Service will be
suspended from 7.00 p.m. to
1.00 a.m.

Wednesday Morning
the 23rd March, 1955
The first ferry will com-
mence at 7.20 a.m. instead of
6.20 a.m.

Tuesday Evening
the 29th March, 1955
The last ferry will leave at
12.00 Midnight instead of
1.00 a.m.

During the abovementioned
suspension Passenger Ferries
will be operated as usual.

THE HONG KONG &
YAUMATI FERRY
CO., LTD.
Hongkong, 9th March, 1955.

NOTICE

Notice to Shareholders
THE HONGKONG AND
YAUMATI FERRY
COMPANY LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that
the Twenty-Seventh Ordinary
Annual Meeting of the Com-
pany will be held at the
Company's Office, Jordan
Road Ferry Pier, Kowloon, on
Saturday the 2nd April, 1955,
at 12.00 noon for the purpose
of receiving the Report of the
Directors and Statement of
Accounts for the year ended
31st December, 1954, to
declare Dividends, to elect
Directors and to appoint
Auditors.

Notice is also given that
the Share Register of the
Company will be closed from
the 21st March, to the 2nd
April, 1955, both days in-
clusive.

By Order of the Board,
LAU TAK PO,
Managing Director.

Hongkong, 3rd March, 1955.

NOTICE

THE HONGKONG AND
YAUMATI FERRY
COMPANY LIMITED.

Notice to Shareholders

Extraordinary General
Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN that an Extraordinary
General Meeting of The Hong-
kong & Yaumati Ferry Com-
pany, Limited, will be held at
the Company's Offices, Jordan
Road Ferry Pier, Kowloon
on Saturday the 2nd Day of
April, 1955, at 12.30 p.m. (or
as soon thereafter as the
Ordinary Annual Meeting to be
held at Noon on that date
shall have concluded) for the
purpose of considering, and if
thought fit, passing the
following Resolution as an
Ordinary Resolution:—

"That it is desirable to
capitalise the sum of
\$1,680,000.00 being part
of the undivided profits
of the Company standing
at the credit of the
Company's Reserve Fund
and accordingly that
a special Capital Bonus
of \$1,680,000.00 be de-
clared and that such
bonus be applied on be-
half of the persons who
on the 2nd day of April,
1955, were the holders of
the 336,000 issued shares
of the Company in pay-
ment in full for 168,000
unissued ordinary shares
credited as fully paid be
accordingly allotted to
such persons in the pro-
portion of one such
ordinary share for every
two of the said 336,000
issued shares then held
by such persons respec-
tively, and that the
shares so allotted shall
be treated for all pur-
poses as an increase of
the nominal amount of
the Capital of the Com-
pany held by each such
shareholder and not as
income, and that such
shares shall rank for
dividend from the 1st
January, 1955, and that
no fractional certificates
shall be issued but that
shares representing frac-
tions shall be allotted to
a trustee to be nominated
by the Directors upon
trust for sale on such
conditions as they con-
sider expedient, and the
net proceeds of sale shall
be distributed propor-
tionately amongst those
members, who would
otherwise be entitled to
such fractions and in
satisfaction thereof."

By Order of the Board,
LAU TAK PO,
Managing Director,
Hongkong, 3rd March, 1955.

US SPECULATION IN STOCKS

Government Told To Act Quickly

Washington, Mar. 8.

A Harvard Economics Professor urged the
U.S. Government today to act quickly to check
speculation in stocks if the market takes another
sharp upturn.

He warned that a crash like that of 1929 "can
happen again" and that the people still have a
"considerable capacity for self-delusion" about
the stock market.

The warning came from Prof.
John K. Galbraith in a state-
ment to the Senate Banking
Committee which is investigat-
ing the current stock market
boom in the United States.

Prof. Galbraith conceded
there are sharp differences
between the economic and
market situation now and
conditions which led to the
1929 crash and the depres-
sion.

But he said "there are resem-
blances which are certainly
interesting and possibly dis-
turb-"

Prof. Galbraith said that if
stock prices began to move
upward again in the current boom,
the Federal Reserve Board
should raise margin require-
ments to 100 per cent.

This would place trading in
stocks on a strictly cash basis.
The Federal Reserve Board re-
cently raised margins from 50
to 80 per cent.

Prof. Galbraith warned there
are two indications that
speculation is on the rise in
the stock market. One, he said,
is an influx of newcomers into
the market. The other is in-
creased discussion about pro-
spects for making profits from
stocks sales and less interest in
stock earnings.

"It would be an exaggeration
to say that there has yet been
any wholesale escape from
reality such as occurred in
1929," he added.

"But enough has happened to
indicate that we haven't yet
lost our considerable capacity
for self-delusion," United
Press.

NARRIMAN BELIEVED SEEKING DIVORCE

Lausanne, Mar. 8.

Former Queen Narriman
of Egypt is believed to be
checking the possibility of
obtaining an Islamic divorce
from her second husband
outside Egypt, an authorita-
tive source said today.

Narriman, former wife of ex-
king Farouk of Egypt, is married
to Dr. Adham el Nakkib, a Cairo
physician. They are estranged.

The source said that Narri-
man is determined to have not
just a civil divorce from Dr.
Nakkib but also to be released
from the religious vows of their
marriage.

In line with that, the source
said Narriman's Swiss lawyer,
Mr. Jacques Gonsens, talked
this morning by telephone with
a divorce lawyer in Beirut.

Since female emancipation has
made more progress in Lebanon
than in most Islamic countries,
Narriman and her legal advisers
were reported to have decided
to start there in their efforts to
win an Islamic divorce outside
Egypt.—United Press.

FRIENDS' ALL OVER WORLD



Willy is 14 years old and
lives at Saxeby, a little village
in the Southern part of Sea-
land, Denmark. Four years
ago he was struck by a
severe illness, which has con-
fined him to a chair. Willy,
however, is not undaunted as
with great interest he has
started a large correspondence
with many prominent per-
sons from all over the world.
He has letters and autographs
—and pictures—from more
than 700 of them.

The Danish Royal Family sends
him greetings, he has per-
sonal letters from Lord
Montgomery, atom-professor
Niels Bohr, and Captain Kurt
Carlsen, of Flying Enter-
prise fame. Stage artists are
richly represented in his
collection—as also are foot-
ballers. Picture shows Willy
with his pet dog "Bambi". In
the background are seen
pictures sent by his world-
famous pen friends.—Express
Photo.

SHORTAGE OF REAL PEARLS

London, Mar. 8.

A shortage of real pearls is
reported here at a time when
this jewel is back on the list of
fashion favourites.

Some London experts attri-
buted the shortage not to un-
productive oysters, but to com-
paratively high wages in the
Middle East oil industry, which
is attracting divers from the
Persian Gulf, the source of the
world's finest pearls.

The same experts added, how-
ever, that, if there were fewer
diving operations for a while,
there would be more chance of
larger pearls from this area in
several years' time.

They said also that pearl-
fishing may possibly increase in
Japan, Burma and other Asian
countries.—France-Press.

PARTIAL PROHIBITION IN BELGIUM

Back-Benchers Want To Liberalise The Law

Brussels, Mar. 8.

Drinking in Belgium, where a "partial
prohibition" is at present in force, will be made
easier if a group of Government back-benchers
here have their way.

While the French Government is engaged in
a campaign to limit drinking, six Liberal members
of the Belgian Lower House have tabled a Bill to
abolish partial prohibition.

They claim that the measure,
which forbids consumption of
spirits except in homes and
private clubs, has become a
"hypocrisy" because the law is
not respected.

KNOW WHERE

"Tourists are forbidden a
glass of brandy after dinner
to stave off a cold in the
inhospitable climate, but the
thrifty Belgian known
where to go to refresh
himself without fear of the
law," the preface to the
Bill states.

The Bill is aimed not only at
making drinking easier but also
at clearing up "the abuses" of
illegal drinking houses which
"provoke people to gambling,
drugs and debauch."

The Bill estimates that there
are more than 100,000 of these
houses selling spirits illegally in
Belgium—proportion of about
one for every 85 people of the
country's population.

The Liberals attack the
hypocrisy of "banning spirits
from open and decent cafes,
while illegal alcohol flows
freely in unhealthy and im-
moral places."

Prohibition, they say, can
never be an adequate preven-
tion of vice as "the history of
gangsterism abroad has proved."

IN ADDITION

In addition to limiting
drinking of spirits to private
clubs and homes it forbids
vino merchants to sell less
than two litres (nearly 2
quarts) of alcohol at a time
to any one person.

But most Belgians admit that
the law is often evaded, par-

ticularly by night clubs and
restaurants. These are "theore-
tically" private clubs or else
sell spirits openly despite
occasional raids by the police.

Some night clubs have a
warning system, and writers
hurry to customers' tables to
hide glasses of whisky and gin
when a police raid is about to
take place.

The Liberal Bill would lift all
bars because "it gives rise to
clandestine drinking and selling
of spirits." But it proposes a
number of controls.

These would not only forbid
minors under 21 to consume
spirits in public places, but
would also prevent the opening
of bars in certain zones: casual
factories, barracks and schools.

Strict limitations on the
qualifications of licence holders
are also proposed under the
Bill.

Licencees would have to be
over 21, never have served a
prison sentence, or had any
conviction for the previous five
years, held a gambling house,
betting agency or house of ill-
repute.

NO YOUTH MEETINGS

Moreover, they would not
be allowed to run any kind
of exchange, hire or labour
agency, or use their pre-
mises for youth meetings.

No licencees would be granted
to tenants of premises not ful-
filling certain conditions of
cleanliness, lighting, sanitation
and so on.

Although there is no question
of regulating drinking hours, no
advertisements for spirits would
be allowed in any bars and the
main articles of the new law
would have to be prominently
displayed in all premises.

The Bill would also give the
King the right to stop sales of
spirits for public consumption
throughout the country or in
certain districts "in case of
troubles, uprisings, or any other
events which might threaten
public order and security."

The suspension of sales would
be for not more than six
months.

The Bill has divided the
present Socialist-Liberal Coali-
tion.

Several socialist spokesmen
have announced that they are
opposed to the Bill and will not
vote for it.

The Liberals say that they
are not attacking the wisdom of
the law when it was brought
in but claim that it must be
adapted to the standards of
today.

MORE HARM

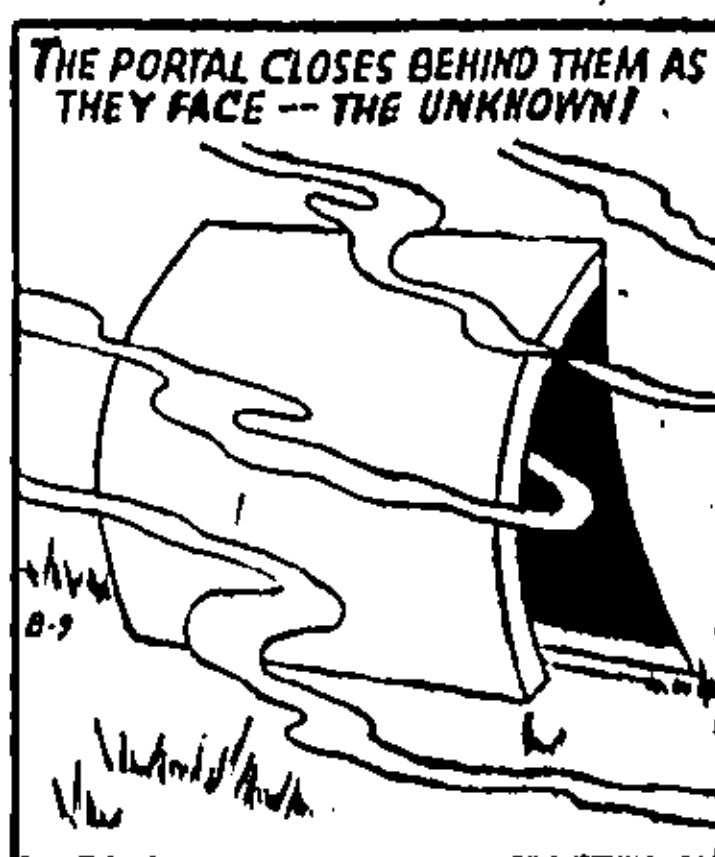
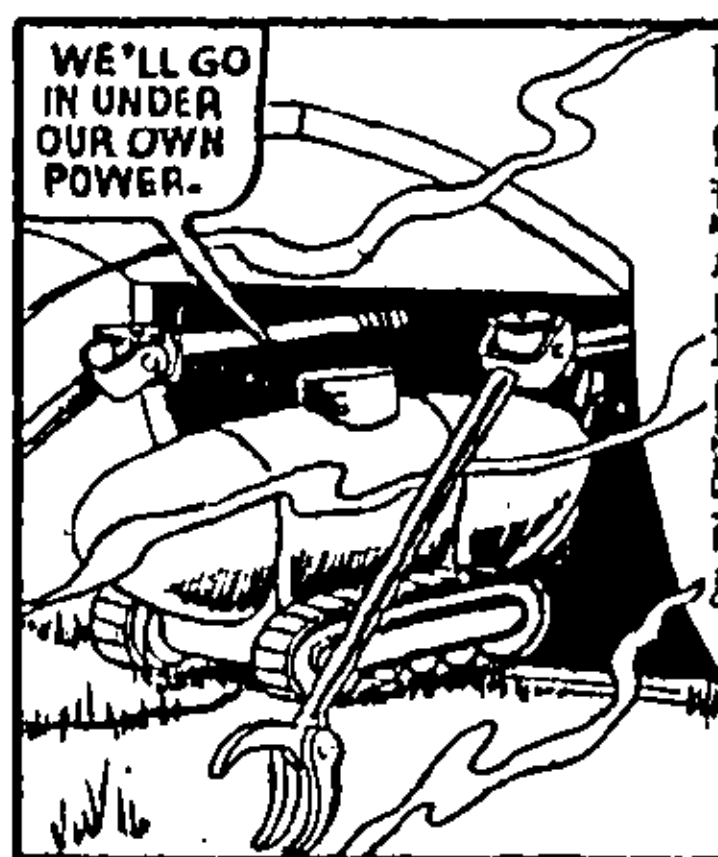
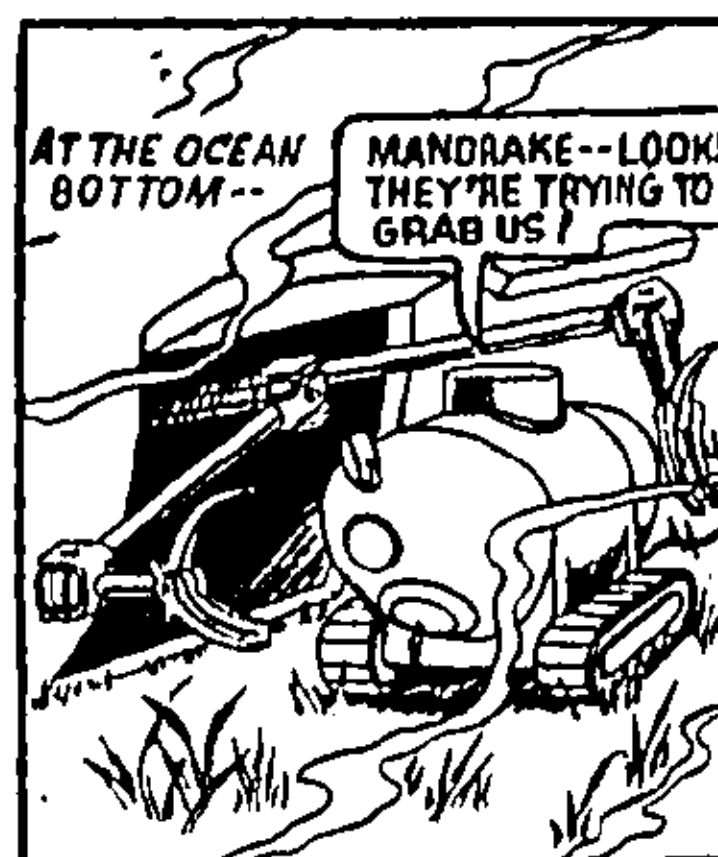
They argue that "the
decline in drunkenness in
Belgium has not been as
great as in many other
countries and that the
existing law has done rather
more harm than good in the
long run."

The average consumption of
alcohol in Belgium is 20,000,000
gallons a year.

The majority of Belgians will
probably be little affected by
any changes in the existing
drinking laws. Beer, which does
not come under the partial pro-
hibition, remains the country's
national drink, and Belgians
claim to be the heaviest beer
drinkers in the world.—China
Mail Special.

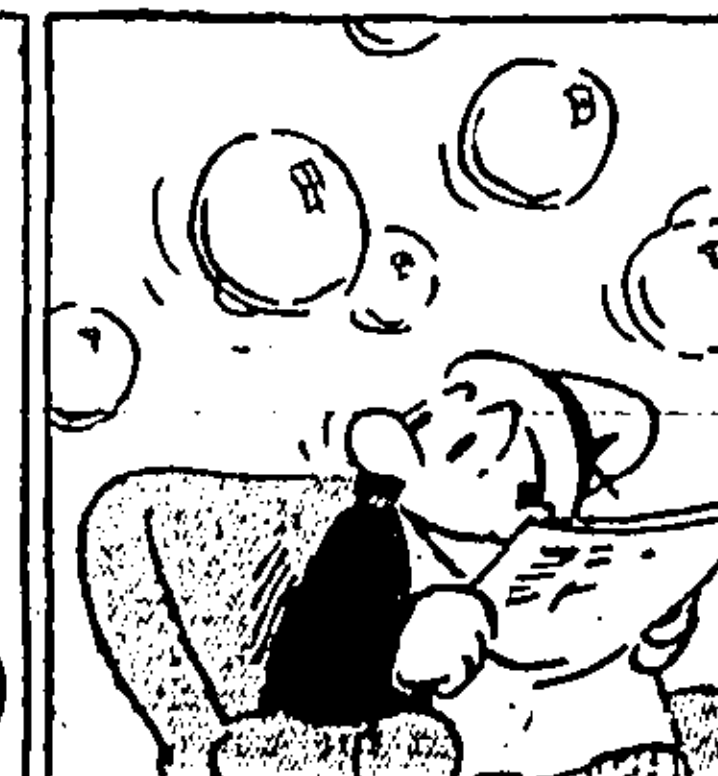
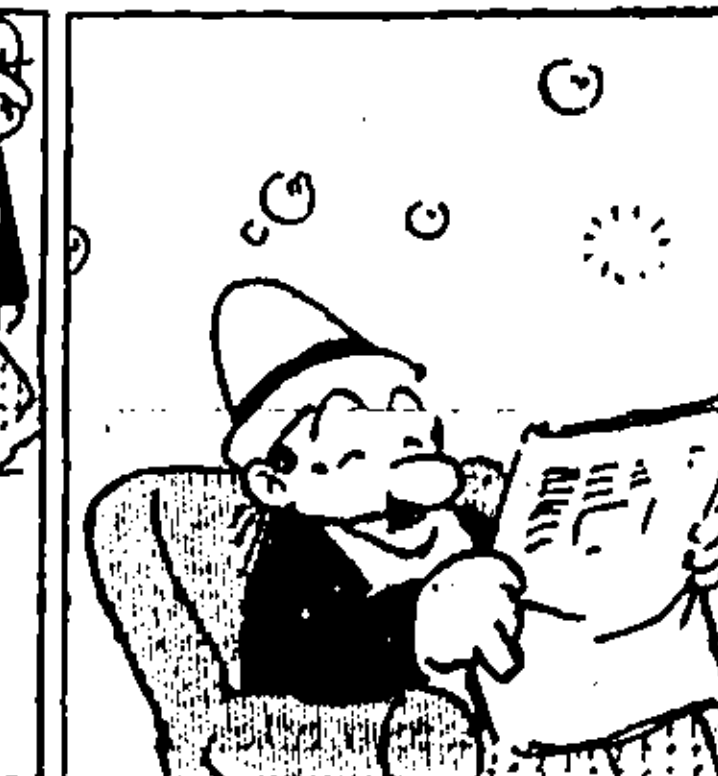
MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



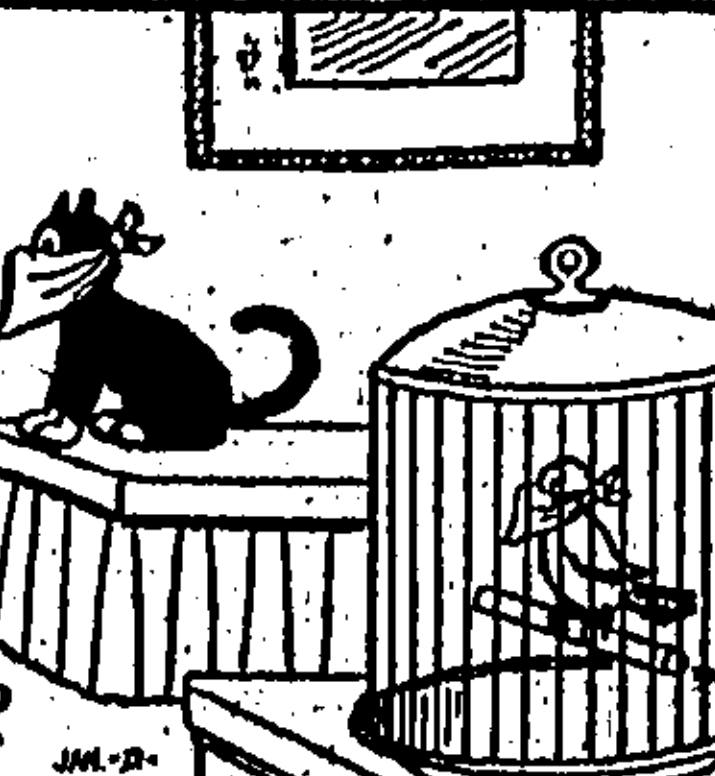
FERD'NAND

By Miki



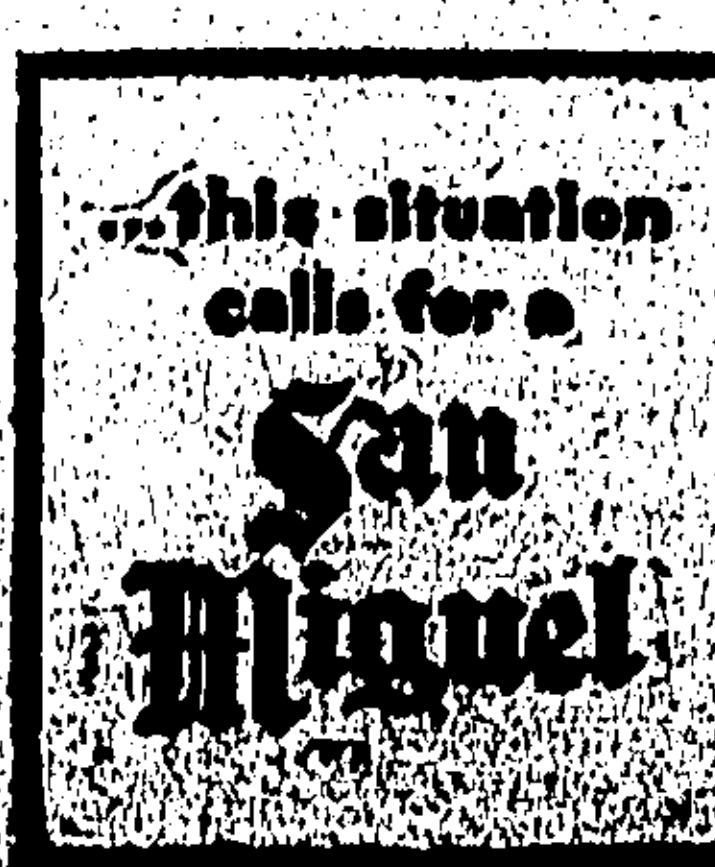
NANCY

By Ernie Bushmiller



JOHNNY HAZARD

By Frank Robbins



MESSAGERIES MARITIMES

P.O. Box 53 Queen's Building Tel: 2531
FAST PASSENGER/FREIGHT SERVICE
"VIETNAM" sailing Apr. 9th
"CAMBODGE" sailing May 20th
FAST FREIGHT SERVICE
"ANADYR" sailing Mar. 28th
"MEINAM" sailing Apr. 16th

GREEK IN FATHER'S US UNIT

Frankfurt, Mar. 8.
Private First Class Leonidas
Papavizas, wartime Greek
guerrilla fighter, is now serving
in the same United States army
unit with which his father,
Charles Papavizas, served 38
years ago.

The elder Papavizas went to
the US and joined the regular
army in 1912. He was pro-
moted to sergeant in 1918, and
during a tour of duty with an
honour guard in Washington,
D.C., was awarded American
citizenship by President Wood-
row Wilson.

Private Leonidas Papavizas
enlisted in the Greek guerrilla
movement at the age of 16 and
spent three years with the 9th
Greek Division in World War
Two.

In 1940 he joined his father in
Boston, Massachusetts. In May
1944, he was drafted to the
army.
He is now with what was also
his father's unit, the 3rd
Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry
Division.—China Mail Special.

TRADE and COMMERCE SECTION

Singapore Stock Market

SHANKS & CO., LTD.
SANITARY EQUIPMENT.
ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT CO., LTD.
R.M. & Shanghai Bank Bldg. Tel. 37789

CHINA MAIL

BEST WRITING MILEAGE GUARANTEED
SHAEFFER'S
Fineline
"500"
Available with extra fine and medium points.

Page 10 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1955.

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

Testing Time

ELEANOR'S husband should have been at his work that morning. Instead, he stood in the corner nearest the door of the public gallery at the Marlborough Street Court.

All kinds of reasons bring men and women to the public galleries of the court. The worst reason of all brought Eleanor's husband. His wife, whom he had loved and cherished for upwards of 30 years, was due to stand her trial, was going, as her husband knew, to plead guilty to being a thief.

Her husband's face was grey and drawn with worry, and he shifted his weight from foot to foot as the court's morning business went on, and every now and again he glanced over his shoulder to the door as if beyond all things, he would have liked to escape.

NO ESCAPE
BUT from the duty that had brought him there was no escape. Eleanor's name was called at last, and the gavel helped her to the dock, for the long wait among small-thieves and prostitutes, pickpockets and drunks, had brought her close to collapse.

"You are charged with stealing eight handbags, eight brooches, and a jumper, valued together at £2," the learned clerk said to her. "How do you plead?"

"Guilty," Eleanor whispered. Counsel for the store that Eleanor had robbed rose to tell the magistrate, Mr. Paul Bennett, VC, the story of the crime.

I'M NOT WELL
SHE had been watched as she made her way first through the millinery department, removing handbags from hats that were displayed; then in the dress department, still watched as she helped herself to brooches from racks. On her way from the store she had taken a pink jumper priced 3s 11d.

"I'm not well," she cried, when the store detective arrested her in the street.

Counsel sat down and a woman detective-sergeant went into the witness-box. "This is a woman of hitherto excellent character," she said. "She came to the West End with the express purpose of having a fur coat repaired, and the £9 she had with her was to pay for that."

"Her husband, a civil servant, allows her £5 a week house-keeping. He is here and would like to speak to you."

SO RESPECTED
"PLEASE, yes, let him speak," sobbed Eleanor. Eleanor's husband came forward, thrust for the ordeal. "My wife's a wonderful person, sir," he said.

"She's not been well, she's been under the doctor. She worries, sir, about my health, and about the future."

"This is a terrible shock for us, sir. We've respected in our neighbourhood. I can't believe that this has happened." The magistrate nodded sympathetically. He asked Eleanor what she had to say.

HOME... TO WAIT
SHE could hardly speak. "I'm so humiliated," she managed to say at last. "So deeply humiliated. I grieve beyond anything I can say."

"It's obvious you're not very well," said the magistrate, gently. "I should go to see your doctor. I shall discharge you absolutely, and you must pay three guineas costs."

Presently, on her husband's arm, Eleanor left the court. Together they made their way home, to await the result upon the charges they had built there, with so much love and labour. The fortress of their respectability, that would be tested when the neighbours heard and read the news from Marlborough Street.

Printed and published by WILLIAM ALICE GRIFFITHS for and on behalf of South China Morning Post Limited at 1-3, Wyndham Street, City of Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong.

Rotary's Dance Festival

The Rotary International, celebrating its Golden Anniversary, are emphasizing its aim of service to the community, provided a delightful and original entertainment last night at the Empire Theatre in the form of a dance festival.

This was organised by Miss Carol Bateman, and apart from the pleasing and varied dances, the production side was most efficiently carried out.

The music was provided partly by Miss Volma Lowe Sun, the pianist, and Mr. Bert Gillett at the Hammond Organ, which is a powerful instrument when allowed its full strength. It supplied an untiring and effective accompaniment to the first item, "Swedish Rhapsody," an engaging "corps de ballet" number incorporating a series of gay round dances and small solos.

The piano took over for Miss Joan Burn's "Caprice Viennoise," a charming classical solo. Later in the programme, Miss Burn danced a vigorous Spanish "Jota" to music of Moszkowski, and was the central figure in the Symbolic dance, "Rotary Wheel."

In this ballet, the choreography was well thought out, and though I had been a little apprehensive about such dancing to Bach's music, the arrangement of the "Toccata" was pleasing and Miss Lowe Sun's playing neat and reliable.

COMEDY DANCER
Two amusing comedy numbers were danced by Mr. Raymond Liao, first "The Minstrels" by Debussy, a clever acrobatic performance, with Miss Kirsten Bannister, and later, with Miss Jean Raymond, a cheeky little act "To a Rose," where the dancers did the always-effective trick of pretending to be clumsy, impossible to carry out without excellent control and imagination.

Miss Jean Raymond also danced two solos, an Indian "Poem," and a somewhat sinister and savage, but skilful, "Primitive" dance, to music by Miss Lowe Sun.

Two classical Chinese dances were given by Mr. Harry Soo, in the traditional gorgeous dress; one was a sword dance, where the two swords brandished one the movements of the body, the other was an interpretation of "The Thought of Spring." He was accompanied by a group of Chinese musicians, who altered the whole atmosphere of the theatre, so that for a moment one imagined oneself at a Chinese opera and it was quite an effort to return to western dances and surroundings.

The same musicians played for an attractive pageant consisting of four scenes depicting moments in the lives of famous Chinese beauties. All these were charmingly played by distinguished actors, actresses and dancers.

The scarf dance by Miss Yang Ming was particularly pleasing.

FOLK DANCES
The closing number was a series of Portuguese folk dances and songs by a group of Portuguese singers and dancers from Macao. The liveliness and vigour of these gay people in traditional dress, who clapped in rhythm. The dresses, all different, were immensely effective, and the whole act was one of the most delightful I have seen. Can we in Hongkong form a similar group of people who so obviously enjoy themselves and at the same time give so much pleasure to others?—K.X.

US-JAPAN TALKS
Tokyo, Mar. 9. Mr. Harold Stassen, the United States Foreign Operations Administration Director, today opened a round of talks with senior Japanese officials on economic problems that have been placing an increasing strain on Japan's relations with the United States.

Japanese officials were hoping that talks with Mr. Stassen would also lead to Japan's taking a more important role in the American \$500 million development programme for Southeast Asia.

Mr. Stassen, who is on a tour of Asian countries, is meeting Prime Minister Ichiro Hatoyama, Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and leading financial officials during a three-day stay here.—Reuter.

Seniors Voted was the plaintiff, but the cause of the divorce action was not disclosed.—United Press.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"Look at this weird book Miss Blue suggested! Why don't teachers recommend educational books, like how to hold a husband?"

DULLES WARNS PEKING

(Continued from Page 1)

"The Philippine Republic is proving itself to be a staunch and an effective ally."

"My last stop was at Formosa, where I conferred with President Chiang Kai-shek, Foreign Minister George Yeh and other members of the government. I exchanged there the instruments of ratification which officially brought into force our mutual defense treaty covering Formosa and the Pescadores."

"Let me make it clear that we have here to deal with two distinct matters—first the political decision as to what to defend and then the decision as to how to defend."

"The political decision of what to defend has been taken. It is expressed in the treaty and also in the law whereby Congress has authorized the President to use the armed forces of the United States in the Formosa area. That decision is to defend Formosa and the Pescadores. However the law permits a defense which will be flexible and not necessarily confined to a static defense of Formosa and the Pescadores themselves."

"How to implement this flexible defense of Formosa the President will decide in the light of his judgment as to the overall value of certain coastal positions to the defense of Formosa and the cost of holding these positions. This judgment would take account of consultations provided for by the mutual defense treaty."

"We hope that the present military activities of the Chinese Communists are not in fact the first stage of an attack against Formosa and the Pescadores. We hope that a ceasefire may be attainable. We know that friendly nations on their own responsibility are seeking to find substance for these hopes."

"Also the United Nations is studying the matter in a search for peace. So far these efforts have not been rewarded by any success. These Chinese Communists seem to be determined to try to conquer Formosa."

"The response of the United States will have importance both to Formosa itself and to all the Southeast Asia and Pacific countries."—Reuter.

Makes Argentine History

Buenos Aires, Mar. 8. The first divorce in Argentine history was granted at Eva Peron, Argentina, today.

Under the provisions of the Argentine's new divorce law, approved last December, Civil Judge Angel Godi dissolved the marriage of Manuel Viera and Nellya Eufemia Daddario de Viera, granting her the custody of their only son.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remembrance Day Fund

Sir,—Once again in support of 1954 Appeal for Earl Haig's Fund the British Legion is sponsoring a Gala Film Premiere. This year, through the courtesy of the J. Arthur Rank Organisation and the New York Theatre, we are pleased to present on Wednesday, March 16, at 9.45 p.m. the British film "The Sea Shall Not Have Them."

This film has been adapted from the book by John Harris and tells the story of one incident which involved the Air Sea Rescue Service which, as we all know, did such gallant work during the war by saving the lives of thousands of airmen who had come down in the sea.

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Grantham have kindly consented to attend, as well as Service Commanders.

Prior to the Show the Band of the 1st Bn. The Essex Regiment (44/56th) will entertain. Seats are available from the 317 Queen's Building (Chatter Road) at \$10, \$5 and \$2 each until March 12 and thereafter at the Theatre. I advise early booking as at last year's performance of "Genevieve" seats were sold out.

As has been the custom in past years, the British Legion has distributed amongst Service personnel and Merchant Navy some 600 free tickets which are being donated by the Public.

I therefore trust that your readers will support this function and thereby help a most worthy cause, and I particularly hope that everyone will give an evening's entertainment to one or more Servicemen by sending to me at 317 Queen's Building, \$3 for each Serviceman's ticket.

K. B. ALLPORT,
Hon. Secretary,
British Legion (Hongkong & China Branch).

Vibro Piling Co. Meeting

A profit of \$467,999.55 was reported at the 20th ordinary yearly meeting of The Vibro Piling Co. Ltd., which Major S. M. Chan, Chairman of the Directors, complimented the staff on an all time record for work done.

The meeting of shareholders in York Building, agreed to a tax free dividend of \$1 per share and a tax free bonus of \$1.50 per share, on 101,800 shares, amounting to a total of \$403,750.

Major Chan said that the market value of the company's investments in shares was twice the book value.

Mr. H. J. Armstrong was re-elected as a Director, and Messrs Lowe, Bingham and Matthews as auditors.

TWO NEW VESSELS FOR STAR FERRY THIS YEAR

Diesel Engines For The "Golden Star"

The Star Ferry Company are to build two new vessels this year and to convert the "Golden Star" to diesel propulsion, it was disclosed by Mr Robert Gordon, Chairman of the Board of Directors, at the annual general meeting of the Company held in the offices of Jardine, Matheson & Co., this morning.

Mr Gordon also revealed that construction of the new piers on both sides of the harbour will begin early in May and that by the autumn of 1956 ferry services will be operated from the first arms of the new piers.

The Chairman placed before the meeting a printed annual report which read: "I am glad to be able to report another satisfactory year despite the depressed condition of business in the Colony which affected, to only a minor degree, the operation of the Company."

During the year 1954 in a total of 133,555 crossings of the harbour we transported over 34,600,000 passengers, slightly less than the previous year, when we carried over 36,000,000. During 1953, however, we benefited from the increased traffic during the Coronation period and allowing for that the fall is really remarkably small. The average daily load was 94,620 and the highest number carried was 124,000 on January 1.

We were fortunate in that there were only two interruptions of our service due to typhoon conditions during the year. These were on August 29 and November 6 and the services had to be suspended for a total of sixteen hours. Apart from that our schedule was maintained without a break and once again I wish to express our appreciation of the excellent services rendered by our staff of all grades throughout the year. Successful operation of a public transport organisation, however, is dependent not only on the actual work of the staff but also on the relations which they maintain with the travelling public. In this respect we are fortunate and our regular patrons give excellent co-operation to our employees, a factor which we value highly.

NEW VESSELS
I mentioned last year that with the finalisation of the plans for new piers we would be able to proceed with our plans for fleet replacement. Since then one new diesel electric vessel, the "Oriental Star", has been constructed and is now in service. During the current year we plan to re-engine the launch "Golden Star" and to build another two new vessels which should be running before December, 1955. These three ferries will be fitted with straight diesel engines which are more economical to run and maintain than diesel electric type. Consideration will be given to further construction during 1956 as it is essential that four of the existing fleet be replaced within a reasonable time. These four vessels were all first brought into service over 25 years ago and are rapidly approaching the end of their economic life.

PIERS
We are informed that construction of the new piers on both sides of the harbour will commence early in May this year and that the first stage of the building programme will be finished in the autumn of 1956. We shall then change over and operate the service from the new premises while the second arm of each pier is being built. With the completion of the first half of the piers the accommodation and facilities will be much improved and it will no longer be necessary to close down berths for protracted annual repairs. The Director of Public Works and his Staff have worked in the closest consultation with us in the development of the scheme. Improvement of facilities will not be confined to piers alone but will also embrace the supplementary shore traffic terminals, a most important factor in ensuring a speedy cross-harbour journey.

In the Profit and Loss Account you will see that the balance from Working Account is down compared with last year. As stated earlier, the passenger load for the year decreased by 1,500,000, the ferry earnings being \$200,000 less than in 1953. Working expenses were also reduced, however, by \$140,000, the result being a reduction in the balance of \$120,000.

There is nothing that calls for special comment in the Profit and Loss Account. Here expenditure also shows a decrease of some \$65,000. Your Board recommend that the amount available for appropriation be allocated to the payment of a final dividend of 5.50 per share, making a total of \$9 tax free, for the year, to a transfer to Reconstruction Reserve of \$200,000 and a provision for Corporation Profits Tax of \$198,000. These proposals are incorporated in the accounts now before you and I hope that they will have your approval.

In the Balance Sheet \$11 will be seen that in the fixed assets there were additions to our launches to the value of \$1,503,180. This figure covers the value of propulsion machinery fitted to the "Oriental Star" during the year and thus transferred and the sum of \$947,180 actually expended on the fleet. Of that sum \$891,000 was the cost, apart from machinery, up to December 31 of the new vessel.

The additions to house property of \$5,000 was preliminary expenditure on the staff quarters scheme to which I shall refer later.

Our share investment's appreciated in value during the year by some \$201,000 and are worth almost exactly double the original cost.

CHINESE STAFF QUARTERS
You will notice that we have commitments in capital expenditure for the years 1955 totalling \$4,600,000. This sum covers the conversion of our vessel "Golden Star" to diesel propulsion, the cost of the two new vessels planned for 1955, the final instalment due on the "Oriental Star" and the erection of quarters for our Chinese Staff.

I informed you last year that the Board had decided to provide quarters for our Chinese Staff and we had hoped to complete the scheme during 1954. Negotiations with Government on the purchase of the site were, however, protracted and the plans will not be fulfilled until the end of the current year.

At the end of the year under review the Hon. Charles Perry retired from the service of the Company after a period of strenuous work on its behalf throughout the post-war period and Mr G. B. S. Thomson was appointed to succeed him with effect from January 1 this year.

Ferry Co And Tunnel Scheme

MR R. GORDON'S OBSERVATIONS

Since my statement which was circulated to you with the accounts was prepared we have learned that Government have invited a firm of Consulting Engineers to send an expert to Hongkong to examine the feasibility of a cross-harbour vehicular tunnel.

In the official statement of February 11, 1955, issued to the press on this matter it was stated that: "If such a project proved to be practicable and if it could be conveniently financed, having regard for other major development commitments, Government is of the opinion that the project might well merit serious consideration in view of the benefits which it would undoubtedly confer upon the Colony as a whole."

NO PRE-JUDGMENT
It is not my intention to express at this stage an opinion on the merits or demerits of such a scheme, and it would be out of place to prejudge the scheme before experts have examined every angle of it. Nevertheless, it may be opportune to express some views in so far as this Company is immediately concerned, because the building of a tunnel could have a very considerable effect on our Company's business.

As stated in my printed statement, the management has been working in close co-operation with Government on the planning of new piers and Government has now finalised its plans for their building, both in Victoria Harbour and Kowloon, a programme for which large sums of money have already been passed in the Budget and which will, I am confident, provide the public with excellent facilities for cross-harbour travel.

We on our part have concurrently planned a programme of fleet replacement to match the new Government-owned piers. New ferries, in conjunction with new terminal facilities will speed up and improve our service and will also cope with any future expansion.

As stated in a clear policy of providing the public with really first class facilities.

MUST PAUSE
It is natural to suppose that a tunnel will bring about a decline in the demand for services which we provide, and your Board may well have to reconsider its original programme of capital expenditure which is estimated to amount in all to some ten million dollars.

I feel sure you will agree that it will not be prudent to go ahead with our plans without pausing. We have already spent, or are committed to spend, six million of the total I have just mentioned, but before any further orders are placed we must await definite information of Government's intentions regarding the tunnel. I hope this will, soon be forthcoming because if the tunnel is not to be built, we must press on with our plans for our new fleet. A quick decision is desirable because delay will only bring frustration on the part of operators of cross-harbour craft.

RADIO HONGKONG
H.K.T. 6. Time Signal and Programme Request; 7. Variety Shows; 8. Time Signal; 9. Weather Report; 10. Time Signal; 11. World News (London Relay); 12. Comedy (London Relay); 13. Special Announcements; 14. Variety Shows; 15. Time Signal; 16. Variety Shows; 17. Time Signal; 18. Variety Shows; 19. Time Signal; 20. Variety Shows; 21. Time Signal; 22. Variety Shows; 23. Time Signal; 24. Variety Shows; 25. Time Signal; 26. Variety Shows; 27. Time Signal; 28. Variety Shows; 29. Time Signal; 30. Variety Shows; 31. Time Signal; 32. Variety Shows; 33. Time Signal; 34. Variety Shows; 35. Time Signal; 36. Variety Shows; 37. Time Signal; 38. Variety Shows; 39. Time Signal; 40. Variety Shows; 41. Time Signal; 42. Variety Shows; 43. Time Signal; 44. Variety Shows; 45. Time Signal; 46. Variety Shows; 47. Time Signal; 48. Variety Shows; 49. Time Signal; 50. Variety Shows; 51. Time Signal; 52. Variety Shows; 53. Time Signal; 54. Variety Shows; 55. Time Signal; 56. Variety Shows; 57. Time Signal; 58. 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